



**Northern
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Deal
Announced
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VOL 9 NO. 40

Saturday, July 3, 1999

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Sarah takes control, promises to "set the records straight"



Sarah Wescott-Williams

PHILIPSBURG—Leader of the Democratic Party, Sarah Wescott-Williams, yesterday took control of the reins of Government and immediately sounded a warning that her Democratic Party will be seeking to set the records straight. In her address to the Island Council, shortly after being sworn in, she said the DP is concerned about the last two months - but in particular, the last two weeks - of government of St. Maarten "because what we have heard cannot all be wrong, cannot all be perception" and she believes that "the public of St. Maarten will be hearing from us on this issue."

She said while a new chapter has started with the DP taking office, the DP must admit what they find in government on taking office.

She said while figures have been quoted (by former Commissioner

of Finance Lenny Priest) about the cash position of the Island Government, little or nothing was heard about the outstanding debts of Government.

And, contending that she was sounding a warning, she told the Council: "We must set the records straight."

She continued: "As we take office and walk into the different offices, we will start by taking an inventory of what is in the offices - not only in the physical sense of the word, but the inventory of the

Continued on page 3

Pomp and pageantry at Swearing-in ceremony

PHILIPSBURG—The pomp and pageantry was in "full effect" in and outside the Government Administration Building yesterday as the new members of the Island Council were sworn in.

Filled with cheer and high spirits, the entire event was probably the most highly anticipated swearing-in ceremony in recent times.

People started to pour into the Legislative Hall from 8:00am for a ceremony which was scheduled to start at 9:00am. They included family members, former commissioners, other invited dignitaries and friends of the new Island Council members.

One thing that was very obvious is the fact that the majority of the

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Saba, Statia want to take Kingdom Govt to Court over Solidarity Fund Page 5.



The members of the new DP majority government from left to right: Johan "Janchi" Leonard, Theo Heyliger, Roy Marlin, Michael Ferrier, Sarah Wescott-Williams, Louie Laveist and Frankie Meyers.

DP moves in, officially!

PHILIPSBURG—St. Maarten has a new government. The Democratic Party headed by Sarah Wescott-Williams has officially

"moved in."

And, following the swearing-in ceremonies yesterday and the holding of the first meeting of the

new Island Council, the new government held its first Executive Council meeting at which the portfolios were ratified.

Also, as part of the new government's first moments in office, the computer systems were examined and the various offices in the government building for the Commissioners were assigned.

In addition, The Daily Herald was reliably informed that it was also decided at the meeting to convene a session with the sector heads of government departments on Monday. That meeting has been scheduled for 3:00pm.

Meanwhile, as a result of yesterday's ceremonies, five re-

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The St. Maarten flag being raised by a police officer while the new Island Council members look on.

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Today: Partly cloudy with an isolated shower during the early morning hours.

Winds: East to Northeast, 10 to 18 miles per hour, with gusts up to 30 miles per hour.

Sea conditions: Choppy, occasionally rough.

Wind Force: 3 to 5, occasionally 6.

Waves: 4 to 7 feet.

Swells: Mainly Easterly, 4 to 6 feet.

A small craft warning is in effect due to the rough sea conditions over open waters.

Barometric pressure: Near normal.

Barometric tendency: Slightly rising.

Forecast high: 31°C 88°F

Forecast low: 26°C 79°F

SYNOPSIS:

Satellite pictures yesterday showed most of the cloudiness associated with a strong tropical wave just South of our islands. This wave continues to move West as the wind and seas decrease. Some shower and thundershower activity is expected during the forecast period due to the moisture and instability induced by this system in the area.

HAZARDOUS WEATHER OUTLOOK: None.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Names of possible Storms or Hurricanes during the 1999 Atlantic Hurricane Season (June 1 to November 30): Bret, Cindy, Dennis, Emily, Floyd, Gert, Harvey, Irene, Jose, Katrina, Lenny, Marie, Nate, Ophelia, Philippe, Rita, Stan, Tammy, Vince, Wilma.

A tropical wave over the Eastern Caribbean is producing numerous showers and thundershowers over the Lesser Antilles and Puerto Rico. There is no sign of further development.

Tropical storm formation is not expected through the forecast period. Outlook until Sunday: Variable cloudiness with widely scattered showers.

Rainfall probability: 20 per cent.

Rainfall potential: Less than 2 mm.

Sunrise: 5:40am; Sunset 6:51pm.

SMART PLAY

2715

4548

5083

Winning Numbers Robbie's Lottery

CURAÇAO

It's

Flag

Day



ST. MAARTEN

POLICE STATION
Philipsburg tel. 22222

HOT LINE 108
EMERGENCY 111

FIRE DEPARTMENT
Airport tel. 54222

Philipsburg tel. 26001
HOSPITAL
Medical Center, Gay Hill

24-hour Emergency Service
tel. 31111

AMBULANCE
Philipsburg tel. 22111

Red Cross Building: 55263
MEDICAL EMERGENCIES

For medical emergencies the doctors on call can be reached outside clinic hours.

Patients of Dr. Bouman, Dr. Bryson, Dr. Bus, Dr. Hermansides, Dr. Krol, Dr. Mercuur, Dr. Scheffers and Dr. Spencer, please call tel. 77010.

Patients of Dr. Dalem, Dr. Foeken, Dr. Herles, and Dr. Tjaden, please call tel. 77007.

Patients of Dr. van Osch and Dr. van der Waag, please call 70444.

Patients of Dr. Abadjeff, Dr. Demnaoul and Dr. Gumbs should contact their own doctor.

ANIMAL ALLEMBANCE TEAM
20600
Weather Info: 123

TELEPHONE INFO
Tel-em: 22211

E. Caribbean Cellular: 24100
Weather Info: 123

ST MAARTEN ZOO
Madame Estate: tel. 32030

Open Wednesday - Friday
9 am - 5 pm, Saturday & Sunday
10 am - 6 pm Adults \$2, Children \$1

Cole Bay Community Council:
meeting 1st, Thursday of month at
Sun Flower Kinder Garden School, Union Dr. Cole Bay at 7:30pm

ROTARY
SERVICE CLUBS

meeting at Pink Pearl Rest.
Frontstreet 121 (tel.20230) every
Wednesday at noon. Mid Isle
meeting at Dolce Vita, Maho
Plaza every Tuesday 06.00pm -
08.00pm.

LIONS
meeting at Holland House Hotel

every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 8 p.m.

ST.MAARTEN LEO CLUB
meeting at Jubilee Library 1st, 3rd
Friday every month at 6.30 p.m.

KIWANIS
meeting at Shih Sagar, Frontstr.
every 2nd/4th Thursday at
7.30pm. Kiwanis Key Club of the
St. Maarten Academy meeting at
the St. Maarten Academy every
Friday at 1.30 p.m.

JAYCEES
meeting at Holland House every
last Thursday of the month 8 p.m.

ST.MARTIN MUSEUM
Frontstreet 7, Philipsburg,
tel. 24917

Opening hours from March 1st:
Monday - Friday: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 12 noon
Sundays: closed.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS
Every Monday, Wednesday and
Friday in the R.C. Fellowship Hall
(Philipsburg) at 6 p.m.

Tuesday, Thursday, 6pm, Baptist
Church, Simpson Bay Yacht Club
Saturday at Muller Bay beach next
to restaurant at 8.30am.

Tel. 71271 (day) 43203 (evening)
TOASTMASTERS
meet at the Philipsburg Jubilee
Library every 1st and 3rd Thurs-
day. Call Asha Stevens (25902)

HEALTH INFORMATION CENTER
Plaza Building, Info AIDS, health
matters. Check hours. Tel. 133
AIDS Helpline: 133.

NATURE FOUNDATION ST. MAARTEN
Great Bay Marina, Office Unit #1
POB 863, Philipsburg.
Tel. 20267, Fax. 20268.

Email: naturems@megatropic.com
PHILIPSBURG JUBILEE LIBRARY
Ch.E.W. Vogest: 12, Tel. 22970.

Open: Mo/Th: 4 - 6.30, Sa: 10-1,
Tu/Wed/Fri: 9 - 12.30 and 4 - 6.30.

WOMEN'S GROUP, Frontstreet 141 (op-
posite Tel-Cell), Monday - Friday 9am-
1pm. Tel: 2740, Fax: 27940.

E-mail: womenesdesk@sintmaarten.net

ST. MARTIN

POLICE MUNICIPAL
tel. 87.50.04

GENDARMERIE
tel. 87.50.10

FIRE DEPARTMENT
tel. 87.50.08

AMBULANCE
Office tel. 87.74.14

Home tel. 87.72.00

HOSPITAL tel. 87.87.67
DISPENSARIE Marigot
8 a.m. - 3p.m. tel. 87.50.93

DISPENSARIE Orleans
8 a.m. - 3 p.m. tel. 87.37.21

SERVICE CLUBS
ROTARY
meeting at Flamboyant Hotel, Baie
Nettle every Thursday at 8 p.m.

LIONS
First and third Tuesday at
Nadillac, Margot at 7.30 p.m.

KIWANIS:
See St. Maarten.

ST. MARTIN
Facing the grand parking at Marina
Royale - Marigot. Open from 9
am-1pm/3pm-7pm, tel. 29.22.84.

U.S. Embassy
Janet Lambertson
Notary Public/Justice of the Peace
294406 or 77616

Vive le Roi

Le Roi est mort, vive le Roi. The Government is out, long live the new Government. Actually it should. For several reasons.

Seeing the enormous support The Democratic Party received from the electorate, the beating its main contender suffered and the lack of enthusiasm to vote for any of the traditional one-man movements, there is every reason to expect the new government to be in for quite some time. That is, if its members keep taking to heart the words of their leader Sarah Wescott-Williams that the time for politics is over and the time of governing has started.

There should be little doubt that is what most people are hoping for: good and effective government. Most people too appear to harbour positive feelings about the growth possibilities for the island. What virtually every concerned citizen is aware of is the need for comprehensive and forward-looking policies. The Multi Annual Policy Plan needs dusting off and implementing. What most people also seem to be convinced of is that working together of the different sectors of society is an absolute must. Judging from the speeches in the Island Council meeting yesterday the challenge to get things done jointly seem to have been understood. There was a lot of sober talk and little grandstanding.

The task for the opposition, however, is no less daunting. As part of government, in the broad sense of the word, it will have to play both a constructive and critical role. One of the intriguing questions is whether the concept of "loyal opposition" as St. Maarten knew in the late 80s and in the past two years will set the tone at the other side of the aisle in the A.C. Wathey Hall.

But, foremost is the question, "How well will the new Government do?" For the sake of St. Maarten, we hope very well.

Apology

As a result of a serious mistake, the wrong photograph was used in an ad for The Platinum Room published in the July 1 issue of our Out 'n' About supplement. We sincerely apologise for using the wrong photograph.

Agenda St. Maarten / St. Martin



The large gathering in the Legislative Hall yesterday. This group wasn't always as quiet as the picture suggests.

Sarah

business of the people of St. Maarten."

And, after stressing that the DP will be counting on the support of the people of St. Maarten "especially when we face some of the rough and tough decisions," she concluded: "Remember, the time for politics is over and the time for governing has started."

Earlier, she said yesterday was a significant day for the DP, for it was truly "a new beginning" and "a new chapter," because after eight years of coalition government, with a change of government practically every 15 months, the DP is the majority party once again.

"Today, I feel vindicated - vindicated of the humiliation, vindicated of the slander. I feel once again that I have overcome..." she told Island Council to applause from her colleagues and the packed gallery. Co-founder of the party Dr. Claude Wathey would have also felt vindicated, she added.

She said that while the DP has the sole mandate to govern and that while the DP might agree with other parties on some issues, there are fundamental differences between the DP and other parties on St. Maarten.

"We believe in consultation rather than confrontation. We believe in inclusion rather than exclusion, in building bridges rather than erecting barricades and we believe in straightforwardness rather than in ambiguity. In plain St. Maarten language, 'say what you mean and mean what you say.'"

"Sometimes that could mean admitting that you are wrong. Sometimes that could mean, admitting that you might have come up with the wrong solution and you are willing to reconsider, but always be straightforward and admit it when you are wrong. These are the principles for the management of this government for the next four years..." Wescott-

Continued from page 1.

Williams stressed.

She said that often the DP had been accused of not taking care of its own for the simple reason that it was looking out for the interest of all the people of St. Maarten, all of the time.

She said that in 1995 the DP was faced with a daunting task, but proved its worth and served in the Government of development and reconstruction with everything it had and St. Maarten is still reaping the fruits of that government.

She also noted that in 1997, when the DP went into opposition, it also served with everything it had and today St. Maarten is reaping the

fruits of the way the DP performed in opposition during the last two years in letting Government know that they should have been there to serve all of the people all of the time.

Like the several other members of the council who spoke before her, she paid special tribute to a number of people for their support, but singled out her mother, who she said has been a mother and a father to her for as long as she has known herself.

She also extended special thanks to former DP Councilwoman Maria Buncamper-Molanus, who was not reelected.

Wing Surveys not closing, operations in full swing

PHILIPSBURG—Wing Surveys NV yesterday denied rumours that it was about to close operations here on St. Maarten.

"The contrary is true. Wing Surveys has never been more active as now," the company's Branch Manager, Rob Berlijn, said on Wednesday. According to Berlijn, "Wing is in full swing" and it is currently involved in several "long-term, high-quality projects," including the harbour extension project and a "large number" of smaller land survey and hydrographic projects in St. Maarten and neighbouring islands.

He also indicated that the company will be involved in deploying a number of Real Time Kinematic (RTK) Global Positioning Systems on the island. The first of these has already been installed at the harbour project for the main contractor there, Balast Nedam, where it is in use

for the installation of the accropodes and piles for the jetty now under construction.

The RTK system, he explained, is capable of giving highly accurate positions and height within less than a second.

Berlijn also explained that the rumours that the company will be pulling out might have been prompted by the stepped-up activities at its premises in Madame Estate, which have just been repainted and re-equipped and from where old equipment and furniture were either sold or given away.

Port de Plaisance rulings tie up resort

Liens stay in place ownership undecided

PHILIPSBURG—All requests filed by Turkish businessman Sudi Özkan in summary proceedings on June 18 versus Italian architect Roberto Cardichi and his wife Cathy concerning the ownership of Port de Plaisance were refused by Judge F. Wefers Bettink yesterday. In a separate case Özkan's demand that liens put on the resort by businessmen Hans Schutte and Kobi Jaeger be lifted was also refused yesterday, this time by Judge Bob Wit.

In spite of the fact that the full text of the ruling in last mentioned case was not yet available on Friday, it can be concluded that the resort will now be tied up in litigation for a considerable length of time.

Efforts to have the question of ownership solved in summary proceedings have obviously not been successful.

As reported earlier, Cardichi claims he bought Port de Plaisance with money borrowed from Özkan. But, Özkan says Cardichi bought the resort in his name with his money and was offered 15 per cent of the shares.

Schutte and Jaeger say they agreed to buy most of the resort from Cardichi, a deal Özkan, claiming to be the real owner, refuses to recognize.

But, the Court on Friday apparently had its doubts about the question of ownership. In his ruling Judge Wefers Bettink says that on basis of the documents presented to him one must for the time being assume that Özkan has a claim to all the shares of the resort rather than Cardichi. However, the Judge nevertheless was not willing to order Cardichi to hand over a company bank account as requested by Özkan.

With that question unresolved and liens on the entire estate prolonged, lawyers for

all parties are now readying for regular proceedings to determine who owns what and whether Schutte and Jaeger have first rights of purchase.

With the possibility of appeal first within the Nether-

lands Antilles and in final instance to the High Court in the Netherlands, the resort will be tied up in litigation for years to come. Unless, of course, parties decide to resolve their differences out of court.

Governor's role praised by SPA, silence from DP

PHILIPSBURG—Judging from yesterday's swearing in ceremonies, Lt. Governor Dennis Richardson has clear support from the new members of the opposition SPA party, while the members of the DP majority government were dead silent on his role as chairman of the Executive Council.

The Lt. Governor was thanked and praised by Councilmen Edgar Lynch and William Marlin for his cooperation with the SPA-led Executive Council and leadership through the hurricanes and other difficult times the island faced over the last five years.

Marlin, in extending "a special thank you" spoke about himself and the Lt. Governor making "a great team traveling to Holland and negotiating on behalf of St. Maarten."

In their address, however, the DP members made no mention of the Lt. Governor in his capacity as chairman. This silence further fueled speculation that the relationship between the DP and Richardson is a shaky one at best. During the election campaign, several DP candidates called on the Lt. Governor to resign his post.

In his remarks at yesterday's swearing-in ceremony, Richardson, in remarks described in some circles as a lecturing the new govern-



Dennis Richardson

ment, stressed the importance of good governance to the new Executive Council.

He said the time for governing and representing all of the people has come. He told the Island Council that there is no need and room for vindictive thoughts and prejudices.

Richardson asked the Island Council to adhere to the principles of good governance, which includes no abuse of authority, no unfair decisions, no decisions without proper justification and no discrimination. They should also ensure trust and fair play.



Two crew members of the USS John F. Kennedy aircraft carrier hard at work at Sundial School yesterday as part of the community work the sailors will be doing while on the five day liberty visit to our island. The 5,000 men and women the crew of the colossal ship consists of will be here till Sunday. Not only did they do maintenance work at a number of schools, they also cleaned up the Cul de Sac cemetery. As thanks for their effort, some local businesses provided them with beverages while they were working in the hot sun.

Air ALM to stop flights at change of millennium

WILLEMSTAD—Air ALM will not be flying from the evening hours of December 31st until the following morning January 1st, 2000.

Public Relations Officer Isa Henriquez explained that the national carrier will be taking this precautionary measure to double check all millennium sensitive equipment of the aircraft and reservation system.

Henriquez: "The flights will be stopped at 9:00pm, so that we will have time to test and double check. The following day we will be flying again, but we will keep a time span of 10 hours to solve unforeseen problems."

Air ALM has been in the process of evaluating the internal system and making an

inventory of the external system since last year. "We have named a committee which is looking at the equipment together with a consultant. This consultant is also in contact with other airports," she said.

Henriquez assured that the evaluation of the internal systems has been completed. The computers have been adapted, the systems are upgraded, a fiber optic cable has been connected and a new internal network is being installed.

"In this respect the millennium problem has advantages, we now have top of the line equipment," she added.

Things are a bit more complicated with the external systems, like the reservation, check in and communication

systems. "An airport makes use of so many systems. It is important that we monitor this closely, but we are dependent on suppliers. Some suppliers have completed their testing, while others are still in the process of becoming millennium proof," Henriquez said.

The spokeswoman explained that a contingency plan had been set up in case of unexpected problems during the ten hours the airline will not be flying between December 31st and January 1st. Air ALM is not expecting less bookings because of the millennium change.

"It is always a busy period. This year as well," she said.

Many students placed via Summer Job Program

PHILIPSBURG—The Summer Job Program, initiated by the Government and coordinated by Shermina Powell-Richardson, is well under way. The students began working on July 1 and will continue through August 6.

Originally there were 135 applicants, but this has grown to about two hundred. Fifty students have been placed throughout the various government departments, while others have been placed in the private sector.

The number of students working in the private sector is not known, because some of the students got their summer jobs by going straight to the businesses themselves.

While most of the students have been placed in jobs, there are still some who have yet to be placed. "We are still placing students, we placed fifty with the government, because that is all that the budget permits, but we are still seeking employment for other students within the private sector," Powell-Richardson said.

She added that the private sector had already taken the responsibility of hiring many students, though these students did not go through the program.

Explaining why some students get jobs with the private sector while others do

not, she said, "We take the names of all companies and the companies tell us what positions are available. We then send the students out on interviews and the companies decide who will get the job. So it's out of our hands who will get the job."

She added that typing and computer skills seemed to be a necessity when seeking employment in the private sector. "I find it hard to believe that there are students out there that were never on a computer, but those are the key areas with the private sector," she said.

Powell-Richardson encouraged the young people to seek employment on their own, as well as apply with the Summer Job Program, because as she put it, "We have to look for a job for 200 applicants, whereas you only have to look for a job for yourself."

She also mentioned that before the program ends at the end of the summer, the new committee for the Business Outreach and Placement Programme will be in place. As of next year the Summer Job Programme will be renamed "The Business Outreach and Placement Programme" and will be coordinated by a committee formed by members of the Business and Government sectors.

"There will be a letter sent to the specific business asso-

ciations in the private sector to form representation on the committee," said Powell-Richardson.

"The goal is to identify the jobs before the students apply, so that when the students apply they will see what jobs are available," she added.

She mentioned that questions had been raised about why the Summer Job Program had sought employment within the private sector so late in the year. "I don't think it had to do with timing. To get it set up it takes processing and the process took time in government. So it would not have been wise to go out and ask the private sector about jobs if it was not finalized from within," she explained.

Though she said that some businesses expressed a preference for University or MTS students, she said they were trying to stay away from that kind of attitude. She said they wanted to give all students - 10 years and older - who wanted employment a chance to work in their chosen field.

All businesses that may still wish to employ students for the summer, whether full or part time, are asked to contact Shermina Powell-Richardson at the Youth and Culture Department in the Vlaut Building or at tel: 22056.

PUBLIC SALE

On Tuesday July 27, 1999, a public sale will be held at 10 am at the Pasanggrahan Hotel, at Front Street, Philipsburg on Sint Maarten, before the hereinafter mentioned civil law notary or his substitute, of the following immovable property:

two parcels of land situated on the island of St. Maarten, in the district of Little Bay, at the top of the Cole Bay hill, both having an area of eight hundred and fifty square meters (850m²), described in Certificates of Admeasurement 306/1990 and 191/1991.

The public sale will be held by order of the judge.

Producing of an irrevocable bank guarantee from a Bank established in the Netherlands Antilles to the amount of their bid, plus the estimated expenses of the auction, can be demanded from the highest bidder(s) at the auction.

The conditions of the sale will be deposited at the office of the hereinafter mentioned civil law notary during the last eight days before the auction.

For more information about the property, the conditions of the auction and further details, contact the office of Speetjens, Steeman & Lopez, Front Street 7, Philipsburg, St. Maarten. Tel. 24197 / 22339.



Professor Dr. Jan de Boer (r) was the keynote speaker at a joint meeting of barristers, lawyers, notaries and judges from the Dutch and French sides of the island last night. De Boer addressed the well-attended meeting, called to establish better and more functional relations between the legal professionals on both sides of the island, on the topic of the re-codified "Civil Code" for the Netherlands Antilles and Aruba. A report of his address will be published in Monday's edition.

AGENDA

ST. EUSTATIUS
Police Station 83222
Emergency 112
Hot Line 108
Fire Department 120
Hospital 82211/82371
Landsradin 82210
Post Office 82207
St. Eustatius Historical Foundation Museum 82288
Winnals Office 82362
Lions Club meets every 1st and 3rd Wednesday at the "Den" next to the Airport
Drug Prevention Foundation meets every Tuesday 5:30pm at the Golden Era Hotel.

SABA
Police Station
 The Bottom, tel. 63237
Emergency 112
Hot Line 108
Hospital
 The Bottom, tel. 63288/63289
Clinic
 Windwardside tel. 62228
Fire Department Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 62222
Landsradin
 The Bottom, tel. 63211/135
WINAIR, Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 62255
Taxi Service Airport
 Flat Point, tel. 160
Administration Building
 The Bottom, tel. 63311/63312/63313
Tourist Office
 Windwardside, tel. 62231
Harbour Office
 Fort Bay, tel. 63294
Saba Marine Park
 Fort Bay, tel. 63295
Surfers & Hike Guide
 James Johnson
 The Bottom, tel. 63307
Service Club
 Saba Sports Club general meeting every 1st and 3rd Tuesday at Eugenius A. Johnson Centre.
Alcohol Anonymous
 Wednesday's 7:00pm
 Eugene Johnson Lions Center

ANGUILLA
EMERGENCY
Police 911
Fire 911
Ambulance 911
Police Station 2333
Hospital 2351
Dental Clinic 2343
Radio Anguilla 2218
Tourism Department 2759
AIRLINES
American Eagle 3500
Winair 2748
Liat 5000
Tyden Air 2719
Air Anguilla 2843
COURIER SERVICE
DHL 3400
Federal Express 2719
UPS 2739
SERVICE CLUB MEETINGS
Rotary Club of Anguilla
 Ferryboat Inn 6:30 p.m.
 Every Thursday Tel. 3111
Rotaract Club of Anguilla
 Mariners Conference Room 7:30 p.m. Every Wednesday Tel. 2595
Seroptimist Int.
 Day Care Centre
 4:30 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in each month. Tel. 3509
Lions Club
 Inter Island Hotel
 8:00 p.m. 1st and 3rd Tuesday in each month
 Tel. 6259
National Council of Women
 Arts and Crafts Centre
 4:30 p.m. 3rd Monday in each month
 Tel. 2200

On Solidarity Fund

Saba, Statia want Kingdom Government taken to Court

SABA/ST. EUSTATIUS—Both new Governments of Saba and St. Eustatius are threatening to take the Kingdom Government to Court over the issue of the Solidarity Fund.

Statia Council elects two commissioners

ST. EUSTATIUS—In the first meeting of the new Island Council Friday, Ingrid Houtman-Whitfield and Louis Brown (both SEA) were unanimously elected as commissioners. Clyde van Putten (SEA) was elected Chairman of the Domestic Committee with the opposition party voting against.

The Chairman of the Island Council, Lt. Governor Eugene Abdul, wished the incoming Commissioners much success. He also conveyed congratulations from State Secretary Gijs de Vries to the incoming government.

Two SEA motions were unanimously accepted. One concerned renaming the Legislative Hall after the late "Vincent Astor Lopes," former commissioner and island council member for the Democratic Party.

The other motion called for all past Island Council members to have their portraits hung in the Legislative Hall.

The SEA Government also announced its proposal to the Prime Minister to appoint Carmen Suares first Acting Lt. Governor, thereby replacing Ricardo Fortin.

The WIPM Government on Saba and the SEA Government on Statia discussed the issue at the first meetings of their new Island Councils held in The Bottom and Oranjestad, respectively, on Friday.

The two Governments referred to the Round Table Conference of 1983 in The Hague, in which the smaller islands received guarantees that they would not suffer any financial consequences as a result of Aruba's departure from the constellation of the Netherlands Antilles.

The WIPM motion, as well as the SEA motion, further empower the respective Executive Councils to seek legal counsel to prepare for testing in a court of law, a civil case against the Kingdom for its non-compliance with and gross negligence of its obligations.

The Chairmen of the two Island Councils were instructed to bring this motion to the attention of all partners in the Kingdom.

While on Saba the motion was unanimously accepted, the DP on Statia voted against, stating that data mentioned in the SEA motion were incorrect.

The SEA party further stated in its motion that by granting a separate status to Aruba in 1986, the concept of decolonization was violated due to improper execution of article 1540 of the relevant United Nations resolution.

PM Denzil Douglas visits St. Eustatius

ST. EUSTATIUS—Prime Minister Denzil Douglas of St. Kitts and Nevis arrived at F.D. Roosevelt Airport Friday afternoon. The Prime Minister and delegation were welcomed by Lt. Governor Eugene Abdul, Acting Police Chief Alfred Suares, Protocol Officer Malverne Lopes and a delegation of the SEA party consisting of Senator Clyde van Putten, Eric Henriquez, Franklin Brown and Siegfried Cartty.

Prime Minister Douglas met with Lt. Governor Eugene Abdul separately for a courtesy call at the Government Guest House. In the presence of press secretary Erasmus Williams gifts were exchanged. At the legislative hall the Prime Minister met with Senator Clyde van Putten, Commissioners Ingrid Houtman-Whitfield and Louis Brown and other SEA members. In his address the

Prime Minister referred to the long existing ties between the two islands. He offered assistance in the field of agriculture, culture and education. He also offered full support to build on the existing relationship between the two is-



Saba's new Island Council members, from l. to r.: Eric Linzey (WIPM), Ray Hassell (WIPM), Commissioner Lisa Hassell (WIPM), Ishmael Levenstone (SLP) and Commissioner Will Johnson (WIPM). Not in the picture Island Council Chairman, Lt. Governor Antoine Solagnier.

New Island Council wants fees for work permits

SABA—The new Island Council of Saba was sworn in on Friday. In the same meeting Will Johnson of the ruling WIPM party presented three motions. One concerned the Solidarity Fund (see separate article).

In the second motion concerning the Saba Bank, the Island Council wants to safeguard the patrimony of the people of Saba by calling on the Federal Government of Netherlands Antilles to relinquish all rights to the Saba Bank area with regard to mineral rights, as well as to the granting of licences to fish in all of the waters of the Saba Bank, including those falling within the 200-mile economic fishing zone.

In the third motion the Executive Council is instructed to, within the shortest possible time, make an Island Resolution regulating work permits. A fee of at least NAf. 800 should be charged for the annual renewal of a working permit to foreigners to cover services to regulate working permits for workers.

A fee of at least NAf. 1500 should be charged for services to regulate the working permits of managerial staff. These fees will not be levied on holders of Dutch passports, religious leaders, retirees who are bonafide investors and not seeking employment, as well as the faculty, students and their dependents of the Saba University School of Medicine Foundation.

Ishmael Levenstone (SLP) voted against this motion, saying that Saba cannot close its doors to foreigners and the door should be left slightly ajar.

Johnson clarified that the motion does not exclude foreigners from coming into the island, but that it stops the

abuse of foreigners who come to Saba and are taken advantage of, with business people not paying them the minimum wage or not paying for their health care insurance.

Johnson added that the Island Government had to take this measure to regulate the situation, because it couldn't allow these people to become a liability to government.

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Curaçao celebrated its 15th Day of the Flag and Anthem on Friday. The official ceremony started with a solemn meeting of the Island Council in the morning, followed by a march of government dignitaries and uniformed groups over the pontoon bridge to Brionplein in Otrobanda. There speeches were held, followed by a prayer by Bishop Mgr. Wim Ellis. After that there were song and dance performances. The Day of the Flag and Anthem is becoming increasingly more popular and more and more neighbourhoods are celebrating this national holiday in their own way with activities. In the photo above: Prime Minister Suzy Camelia-Römer and Lt. Governor Stanley Betrian (center left and right) at the ceremony. Photo below: the Curaçao flag being hosted.



Incoming Island Council of St. Eustatius.

Statia Council members sworn in on Thursday

ST. EUSTATIUS—The elected members of the Island Council of St. Eustatius, Ingrid Houtman-Whitfield, Clyde van Putten, Julian Woodley and Edris Bennett-Merkman, as well as newcomers Louis Brown and Roy Hooker, were sworn in at the Lt. Governor's Office on Thursday at 11:30am in the presence of relatives.

From 2:00pm the Island Council, chaired by Lt. Governor Eugene Abdul, dealt with the draft ordinance Basic Administration-Personnel data; the resignation of Island Secretary Darlene Berkel and the stepping down of Island Council members Kenneth van Putten and Edris Bennett-Merkman.

The introduction of The Basic Administration Ordinance was unanimously approved with all members agreeing it would mean a great improvement to the Census Office in Statia and the exchange of information between the various census offices in the country.

Ingrid Houtman-Whitfield stressed the need for publishing of the ordinance as soon as possible. She referred to cases when she was employed at the Census Office.

The resignation of Island Secretary Darlene Berkel requesting dismissal as of August 31, 1999 was unanimously considered a great loss. She

will become chancellor of the St. Eustatius School of Medicine.

Julian Woodley and Edris Bennett-Merkman mentioned the good working relationship they had with Berkel.

Councilman Kenneth van Putten said Berkel's resignation had come as a great surprise. He mentioned the role of the Island Secretary in the Island Council as one of only listening, not speaking, but he said Darlene Berkel undoubtedly left her mark in the government apparatus.

Ingrid Houtman-Whitfield referred to the time she had come in as a council member some two terms ago, when the Domestic Committee handled the appointment of Berkel as island secretary. She said to remember Darlene's first appearance as an impressive woman with all members voting for her.

Her working relationship with the opposition was good and Clyde van Putten said the request to leave the service was a surprise. The tasks and duties of an island secretary should never be underestimated, he stressed. Berkel was a role model for all young people studying abroad, Van Putten said.

Lt. Governor Eugene Abdul expressed appreciation for the difficult work of the island secretary which Berkel per-

formed in a most professional way.

The departing Island Secretary thanked the Executive and Island Council members for their cooperation, saying she considered it an honour to have served. She extended special thanks to the Internal Affairs Office.

Upon proposal of Commissioner Edris Bennett-Merkman the Island Secretary was honourably discharged.

The council also dismissed Island Council members Edris Bennett-Merkman and Kenneth van Putten. Lt. Governor Abdul thanked both council members for their input, mentioning that due to more legislation and procedures the work at present was quite different from years ago.

Leaving Commissioners Julian Woodley and Edris Bennett-Merkman reminisced about their years on the Executive Council, with Bennett-Merkman saying the last four years had been rough, especially at times when the two factions did not agree.

Kenneth van Putten said he felt no regret after serving the Island Council for 33 years, thus being the longest serving Island Council member in the Netherlands Antilles, according to him.

Island Council: glimpses into the future

PHILIPSBURG—The St. Maarten public was yesterday treated to brief speeches by the 11 members of the newly sworn-in Island Council who provided them with glimpses of things to come from the Democratic Party Government, as well as glimpses of what to expect from the two opposition parties in the council.

The themes of the speeches ranged from new Leader of Government Sarah Wescott-Williams' warnings about setting the records straight, to William Marlin's reminiscing about the projects undertaken by his SPA-led Government which he said had set a "new standard" and which his colleague Lenny Priest said had established a new yardstick by which all future governments will be judged.

The themes also included the national Progressive Party's (NPP's) Vance James' contention that St. Maarten is now embarked on a new phase in its development, that which leads to independence.

All members of the council also used the opportunity to pledge to work untiringly in the interest of the people of St. Maarten and to thank their families, relatives, friends, campaign workers and supporters for their support and prayers during the recent election campaign.

The members of the new Executive Council and the other DP members of the Island Council urged the people of St. Maarten to bear with them as they strive to keep their campaign promises, sometimes having to make unpopular decisions. On the other hand, they were taken down memory lane by members of the SPA.

Michael Ferrier

Commissioner Ferrier said that he intends to be fair but firm. He will not give in to unrealistic demands from those who don't wish to help themselves but look to government to do everything.

He stressed the need for St. Maarteners to make the best of what they have, to give of their best and to eschew mediocrity or "half-half" work. The Commissioner also said he will promote close cooperation with the French side in the effort to build a better St. Maarten and he called on his colleagues in the business sector to make a greater contribution.

Theo Heyliger

Commissioner Heyliger minced no words: "The

people of St. Maarten have spoken. We see the price of working (the DP) and not working (the SPA)," he said.

He added that the DP will not look at records to duplicate or proclaim themselves heavyweights. Job opportunities, for him, will be the ultimate goal. He also said he will listen to investors, the management of the hotels, the St. Maarten Hospitality and Trade Association (SHTA) and the other "movers of the economy."

"Most of all, I will listen to the people of St. Maarten, because you put us here," he said.

Louie Laveist

Councilman Laveist stuck to his roots and touched on the importance of culture and preserving cleanliness in Simpson Bay Lagoon. He said he will work tirelessly to see to it that a new cultural Center is realised and that the destruction of the lagoon is halted immediately.

Janchi Leonard

Councilman Leonard said that he will represent the new option and in fact is the new option for the new millennium. Riding on the fact that he has been a police officer for more than 20 years, Leonard said that he knows all about service, commitment and dedication.

Vance James

Councilman Vance James, contending that yesterday was "the first day of the next phase" in the development of St. Maarten and in the development of the people of St. Maarten, said "that phase is the phase that leads to independence" - a view which he devoted much time to in his presentation.

He stressed that the new members of the council have been elected to a legislative body which has clearly de-



Franklin Meyers

fined responsibilities and obligations.

"We can expect nothing else from this council and this council can expect nothing else from us than that the business of the people be conducted in a forthright, fair and open manner. That the issues of importance to our island nation and its future be debated openly and clearly and that where necessary appropriate actions will be taken, necessary enquiries undertaken and legislation made in the interest of our island and its people," he said.

James also explained that the faction of which he is part, has a responsibility to question the Executive Council on its planned actions, its actions and lack of action.

"We have a responsibility as representatives of the people to expect you as Executive Council when submitting proposals to have prepared yourselves well to explain and defend the proposals while keeping an open mind for suggestions and/or proposals which will improve on what has been submitted," he added.

William Marlin

SPA Leader William Marlin, referring to remarks made earlier by a DP member about foundation-laying, said he and his colleagues can certainly say that they had set new standards and had definitely built a new foundation for St. Maarten.



Michael Ferrier

He said he and his colleagues had set the foundation and put in place the plans for the beautification, not only of Philipsburg, but for Over the Bank. Over the Pond, and alongside the main road in Philipsburg. They had also put in place the plans for the construction of roads, some of which have already been realised, others still under construction and still others still in the "popular pipeline."

Also in place are the foundation for the building of two hotels and soon members of the new Executive Council will have the honour bestowed on them for the ground-breaking of the Axonia Hotel and other projects in Dawn Beach and other areas of St. Maarten, Marlin added.

He said they had also built several new schools, and gone are the days when our children are confined to former churches, bars, restaurants and other buildings for today, "an adequate infrastructure in education has been

left behind."

He also listed a number of other projects which he said his government had initiated.

Franklin Meyers

DP member Franklin Meyers said he had prepared a speech, but after listening to other members had decided to abandon it and "speak from the heart."

In his presentation he stressed togetherness, saying that it was only through working together as one people will St. Maarten be able to truly and really move forward.

"It is only when we get the mentality that we are St. Maarteners and together we must struggle for the benefit of St. Maarten, it is then and then only that St. Maarten will move forward."

He said members have a responsibility to ensure that St. Maarten is a stable place, so that when they leave a stable foundation for the next generation to run rather than run away from.

Lenny Priests

Former Commissioner Lenny Priest listed six areas which fell within his portfolio and said: "I can look back with pride at the great accomplishments in each of those portfolios."

He said that as of May 31, 1999, the financial position of the Island Territory was NAF. 13 million and that as of June 25, the balance in the account was NAF. 9.4 million.

He said that he and his col-

leagues in government have set standards that the people of St. Maarten have become used to and they "can no longer and will no longer accept mediocre work."

He continued: "Our people have become very critical and want only the best for this Island Territory of St. Maarten. It is for that reason that the people of St. Maarten continue to say that never in the history of this island has there been so much work performed by this government."

"Mr. Chairman, my government has established a yardstick that every government following hereafter will use to evaluate and measure how they performed...As the outgoing government, we are very, very proud of our accomplishments and will continue to hold our heads very high, for nobody can deny that we have performed."

He said a special thank you to members of the last council who were not reelected, especially Elton Jones and Julian Rollocks, who he said "as true St. Maarteners" have made the island very fond of them for standing up for the things they believe in and for saying the things many others would like to say, but don't have the guts to say.

EDITOR'S NOTE: See Monday's issue for report on speeches by Commissioner Roy Marlin and Councilman Edgar Lynch.

Chief Minister leaves for summit in Trinidad

ANGUILLA—Chief Minister Hubert Hughes leaves Anguilla today, July 3, to attend the Heads of State Caricom summit in Trinidad and Tobago.

He noted that it is impor-

tant for all the Caribbean countries to be concerned about the economy of all the islands.

"If the agricultural products like sugar and bananas are threatened, it can affect

all the other islands. We must make sure we are strong," he stressed.

Hughes leaves Trinidad on July 7 and travels to the UK, where he is having talks on the transshipment operation, a new airport for Anguilla, the country Policy Plan and ethics in government.

He will be talking with Mr. Westmoccott from the Department for International Development (DFID) and Baroness Symons and George Foulkes from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

He has requested that former Governor of Anguilla Alan Hoole be present at the meetings.

The Chief Minister is expected to return to Anguilla on July 14.

Wendy's restaurant opens in Curaçao

WILLEMSTAD—The fast food chain Wendy's has opened its doors in Curaçao this week. The pizza chain Little Caesar's will also be coming to the island.

A businessman from Aruba is franchise owner of Wendy's, which is located in Salinja, completing the row of fast food chains there.

Luis Posner called the opening day a historic one. "For us it is the start of a new period and a renewed relationship with our sister island Curaçao," he said.

Posner explained that the construction of the Wendy's restaurant had cost about NAF. 3 million. A second Wendy's will be opening by the end of this month in Punda on the corner of Wilhelminaplein/Plaza di Flor. The fast food is providing a work place for some 100 people. A selected crew from Wendy's in Aruba is helping the employees with the start up.

In the same building in Salinja in which Wendy's is

located a Little Caesar's pizza restaurant is expected to be opened in the course of this month or early August.

Manager Angelino de Pool said he expects the fact that Little Caesar's also sells single slices of pizza to be a contributing factor to its success.

Papa Umbo draws full house

PHILIPSBURG—Story teller Garfield Young, aka Papa Umbo, performed to a full house at the Philipsburg Jubilee Library on July 1st in commemoration of Emancipation Day 1999.

According to Umbo, the crowd participation was excellent, with the kids and their parents getting involved in the stories and when advised to do so, joining in the repetitions. The audience grew excited and subdued alternately as Umbo related well loved sto-

ries and folklore of times gone by.

The most highly appreciated stories were the Annancy and jumbie stories, which Umbo said he had tuned down to suit his young audience and made them funny instead of scary.

Papa Umbo is considered by many to be St. Maarten's leading authority on relating folklore and stories of long ago and his performances are generally funny and well appreciated.



All geared-up and ready for their three-day training in rough terrain, about thirty members of the 2nd Battalion of the Voluntary Corps St. Maarten (male and female) gathered at Sundial School yesterday afternoon. The training, which will last until Sunday afternoon, will aim at improving the shooting skills, disaster preparedness and riot control. A speed march, as well as a mountain march and a simulated attack by "enemy" forces will also be part of it. The training ends with a barbecue at Mullet Bay Sunday afternoon.



Special 4th of July mass for sailors

SOUTH REWARD—Father Aguilar, chaplain of the USS John F. Kennedy, will celebrate Holy Mass at the Risen Christ Church in South Reward on Sunday, July 4th.

This is being done in commemoration of the American Independence Day July 4th to provide members of the ship's more than 5000 crew members, as well as the St. Maarten population the opportunity to celebrate that day with God.

The service will be a joint effort of Father Rene Realuyo, the Pastor of the St. Martin of Tours Parish and Father Aguilar.

The service will begin at 11 o'clock in the morning. The church extends an invitation to all to come and be blessed.

At Island Council's swearing in ceremony



The marching honour guard band on their way to the Government Building.

DP moves in!

people in the gallery were DP supporters. They cheered, stood up and clapped for their elected candidates at every opportunity they had, with the first being the "marching" in of the elected DP officials into the hall.

The ceremonies, conducted by Lt. Governor Dennis Richardson, started off with Island Secretary Rafael Boasman reading the Oath of Office. He read the oath in two parts, with the first being the "swearing in the name of God" to uphold the oath and the second only a promise to uphold the oath. Council members had the option of pledging for either one. The council members stood facing each other in the "V" shaped section of the hall.

Following the oath, the new members congratulated each other and moved outside to take part in a flag-raising ceremony complete with an honour guard mounted by the Police band, whose members marched from the police station to the government building, beating away at their drums.

Once in position, one officer lowered the St. Maarten flag and as the band played the St. Maarten an-

them, "Oh Sweet St. Maarten's Land," raised it ceremoniously.

The new council members also posed for several photo opportunities and conversed with supporters who were in the vicinity and on the corridor of the government building overlooking Clem Labega Square.

The ceremonies moved back into the Legislative Hall, where the five commissioners were voted for by the entire council. As was expected, each commissioner received 7 votes. In each case there were four

Continued from page 1.

blank votes.

It can be safely assumed that the seven votes were cast by the seven DP members and the blank votes by the three SPA members and one NPP member of the council. Finally, each new member of the council had the opportunity to address the gathering in an Island Council meeting (see related stories).

Councilman Johan "Janchi" Leonard was elected as the Chairman of the Central Committee and Councilman Louie Laveist as Vice Chairman.

Pomp and Pageantry

cently elected members of the Island Council can now officially place the word "Commissioner" before their names as they execute their mandates in the service of the people of St. Maarten for the next four years.

In the 11-member Island Council, the Democratic Party has a commanding majority with control of seven seats.

The new Executive Council consists of Leader of Government Commissioner Sarah Wescott-Williams, Commissioner Theo

Continued from page 1.

Heyliger, Commissioner Roy Marlin, Commissioner Franklin Meyers and Commissioner Michael Ferrier. They are supported by Councilman and Senator-designate Louie Laveist and Councilman Johan "Janchi" Leonard.

The opposition for the next four years comprises Councilman William Marlin, Councilman Edgar Lynch and Councilman Lenny Priest all of the SPA, as well as Councilman and veteran politician Vance James of the National Progressive Party (NPP).



All the members of the new Island Council, government and opposition.



The members of the Island Council congratulating each other after taking the Oath of Office.



Leader of Government Sarah Wescott-Williams taking the oath.



The make up of the seating in the hall will look as pictured above, with the DP moving over to the right and the SPA to the left.



The three SPA Councilmen who will be in the opposition, from l. to r.: Edgar Lynch, William Marlin and Lenny Priest.

Chief Minister says his Govt is not a minority

ANGUILLA—Chief Minister Hubert Hughes, speaking about the proposed boycott of the House of Assembly by members of the Opposition, stressed that the elected members are paid handsomely to represent the people in the House and they must do the people's business. "It is immoral for them to run for elections and then say they won't go to the House," he said.

He suggested that the Opposition members are frustrated, especially because they do not have the support of Edison Baird to put forward a vote of no confidence, also that the Opposition is refusing to work with the Constitution of the island.

"There are corrupt elements in the political electorate," Hughes said. "One of the things I would like to accomplish is to have a clean, ethical society and we have to start with the politicians."

Hughes accused Victor Banks of getting involved with partnerships in the community, with alien companies and work permits for expatriates. The Chief Minister explained details about the transshipment operation that has again been stopped.

As a result the road projects

have been halted and the owner of the asphalt company has no work. He blames Banks for taking the agency for the ship's visits and the subsequent halt to the business.

Questioned about the minority, Hughes emphasized that his Government is not a minority. He explained that in the Constitution the Executive Council "shall consist of the Chief Minister and not more than three other ministers." Also there are two ex-officio members, the Deputy Governor, Roger Cousins and the Attorney General, Ronald Scipio.

Therefore, according to Hughes, with himself and two ministers, there are five persons in Government, forming his cabinet. A two-thirds majority would be needed in the House of Assembly to be successful with a vote of no confidence.

Hughes concluded his press conference by saying, "We are functioning. We are capable. We will defend the working classes, we will get minimum wage and fair working conditions. Things are happening and there is more to come. The Government will last. The Government will survive."



Hubert Hughes



Ameris staff members Hubert de Launay, Frederic Dorne and Yves Nartin (1st, 2nd and 3rd from l.) at their press conference yesterday.

New cellular provider on the French side

MARIGOT—A new cellular phone provider has entered the market on the French side. Ameris, a French company, with headquarters in Guadeloupe, launched its operation on St. Martin yesterday in Beach Plaza Hotel in Sandy Ground.

The company, according to its Marketing Director Hubert de Launay, already offers its services on all French islands in the Caribbean, as well as in French Guiana.

"We started in Guadeloupe and Martinique in 1996, in 1998 we went to French Guiana and in January this year we started in St. Barths," De Launay said. The company is affiliated to France Telecom, France's largest telecommunications service provider.

Ameris provides its subscribers with the ability to purchase a lifelong phone number that they can use, no matter where they move to, be it

another Caribbean island, the US or Europe. A chip in the Nokia or Alcatel phones enables that feature.

Though an agreement with Dutch side authorities is not in place and the phone service thus cannot be offered on the Dutch side, subscribers of Ameris can use their phones when they cross the border.

Ameris has placed antenna's all over the French side. "You cannot stop the waves," said De Launay.

Grandmasters band begins American/European tour

ST. KITTS—Grandmasters, a popular St. Kitts band, left St. Kitts on Thursday, July 1, for North America and Europe, on the heels of a splendid performance on Thursday, June 24, at the recently concluded St. Kitts Music Festival.

The tour will see the group going to New York, Connecticut, Miami and England, playing at occasions like the July 4 weekend in the USA.

Wingrove Hicks, the band leader, told The Daily Herald, "This is the fourth time the band will be going to the US mainland. As a band, we have been to St. Thomas on three consecutive occasions for carnival. We've been to St. Maarten, St. Eustatius and the British Virgin Islands. This tour will end on July 19. We are going to return to St. Kitts-Nevis in time for August weekend celebrations. We will play at the

Cultural Village, the J'ouvert morning parade of troupes."

Hicks also indicated that the present band members were looking forward to the tour, as this was the first major trip they would be embarking on since the band regained immense popularity on the local scene.

Looking back briefly at the band's performance at the

just concluded music festival, Hicks said, "According to our supporters, our band performed far better than last year. Our performance last year was good, but this was better and they loved our new release, Sweet Juice."

Grandmasters is the current road march winner in St. Kitts.

Mission House restoration not approved by church

ANGUILLA—In an article in The Daily Herald on Wednesday, June 30, it was stated that the Mission House at Sandy Ground was to be restored by Martin Crowley with agreement of the Methodist Church, which owns the property.

According to Rev. Joseph Lloyd, Superintendent

Minister of the Methodist Church in Anguilla, no proposal has been approved by the Church for the restoration. Crowley said he was hoping that an agreement could be reached in the near future so that the project, for the good of the children of Anguilla, could be started.

ACS celebrates fifth anniversary

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad—The 25-member Association of Caribbean States (ACS) will celebrate its fifth anniversary throughout the month of July, under the theme "Integrating the Caribbean", the Trinidad-based ACS Secretariat announced Thursday.

The Convention establishing the ACS was signed in Cartagena de Indias, Colombia on July 24, 1994. "During the past five years, the Association has sought to

achieve the integration of the Caribbean Basin, a Caribbean beyond the shores of our sub-regional scope, including the countries of CARICOM, Central and South America," the ACS said in a statement.

The Second Summit held in April this year in the Dominican Republic determined the role and focus of the Association for the demands of the new millennium and signed the Declaration of Santo Domingo

with its relevant Plan of Action.

"The ACS has worked to integrate a Caribbean comprised of the many states and countries within the region, countries which stretch from as far north as Mexico, the Dominican Republic, Haiti and Cuba to the CARICOM countries and to the southern Caribbean waters of Venezuela, Colombia and Suriname," the statement added.



Members of the Chilean protest group "Families of the Detained and Disappeared" march in honour of their leader Sola Sierra in Santiago, June 2. Sierra, who was best known for her battle to try to put former dictator Augusto Pinochet behind bars and supported a Spanish bid to try the retired general on torture charges, died in a Santiago hospital on July 1 during back surgery. Her husband was one of the more than 3,000 people who died or disappeared in Pinochet's 17-year military rule.

Police dispute settled after PM's intervention

KINGSTON, Jamaica—The dispute between the Police Federation and the government was settled Thursday following a meeting with Prime Minister Percival Patterson in his office at Jamaica House.

Head of the Police Information Centre (PIC) Assistant Superintendent James Forbes confirmed the settlement but said that the executive of the Federation "was keeping the details for the agreement for a mass meeting of the members" to be held next Tuesday.

Rank and file members of the police force have been calling in sick since Wednesday despite the decision of Patterson to meet Thursday with the executive of the Federation in a further attempt to resolve a long-standing pay dispute.

The PIC told CANA that police stations and departments across the island were again affected by reduced

numbers after many police officers called in sick.

"The situation is much the same as yesterday," the PIC spokesperson said. Large numbers of police officers stayed off the job Wednesday, hampering police operations.

This despite the fact that under Jamaican law the police are listed as an "essential service" and would be in breach should their sick-out be considered "industrial action".

The sick-out also defied a Supreme Court Order secured by the Attorney General last week, barring the police force from taking industrial action for 14 days on the grounds that it would endanger the public and national security.

Radio Jamaica reported that soldiers had been dispatched to St. Thomas in the island's east to assist police operations.

Caribbean briefs

Jagan's illness may cause her absence at Caricom top
Georgetown, Guyana—Guyana's President Janet Jagan is expected to miss the upcoming Caribbean Community Heads of Government summit in Trinidad and Tobago. Jagan was admitted to hospital Wednesday night and remained there Thursday, being evaluated and treated by doctors, after complaining of persistent pain. And though her condition has been described as stable, officials say it is unlikely that she will attend the July 4-7 Caricom summit.

Rights body: Regional states playing politics with death penalty

Castries, St. Lucia—The regional human rights network Caribbean Rights has accused regional states of playing politics with the death penalty. During a visit to St. Lucia this week, Caribbean Rights Coordinator Sheila Stewart said that Trinidad and Tobago had started a snowball effect by hanging nine murder convicts recently. Since then, she said, other Caribbean countries have joined the bandwagon and are promising to carry out hangings. But Stewart says the region must look at alternative forms of punishment to capital punishment, including life imprisonment.

Cuba counters US dollar "tyranny" with euro

HAVANA. Cuba—Cuba, which has hailed the introduction of the euro as a welcome challenge to the "tyranny" of the US dollar, has started using the European currency in its transactions with 11 European trade partners.

Cuba's Central Bank said in a statement Friday that as of Thursday, July 1, use of the euro was made obligatory for all of the island's contract and payment transactions with the 11 European Union states that have formally adopted the currency.

This move would help to streamline and simplify Cuba's trading relations with these countries by bringing greater stability and transparency to prices and exchange rates.

The communist-ruled Caribbean island, which is the target of a 37-year-old US economic embargo, was believed to be the first Latin American nation to adopt the euro in this way.

The US trade embargo hinders its use of the US dollar in its international trade,

obliging Cuban companies to shift in and out of a variety of currencies.

The Cuban central bank said use of the euro was also justified by the fact that European Union (EU) nations accounted for more than 40 percent of Cuba's total trade.

Havana also saw political gains from using the euro. The central bank said use of the European currency would help to weaken what it called the "absolute hege-

mony" of the US dollar in international financial relations.

Cuba's President Fidel Castro reinforced this point when he addressed a meeting in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, attended by leaders of Latin America and the EU. "The euro will help to free us from the privileges and tyranny of the dollar," Castro said in a speech Tuesday.

Cuba's adoption of the euro in its trade with most of

the European Union received immediate support from the leader of a large visiting Spanish business delegation.

"The fact that a country like Cuba decides to carry out its transactions in euros is a message of confidence," Jose Manuel Fernandez Norriella, president of Spain's Higher Council of Chambers of Commerce, Industry and Navigation, told reporters.

Teen arrested for violence at high school graduation

KINGSTOWN, St. Vincent—A 17-year-old youth was Thursday remanded in custody as investigations continued into an incident that forced a violent end to a secondary school's graduation ceremony, police said.

Fifth-form students from the Intermediate High School in the capital, Kingstown, were just settling down to the formal part of their graduation

ceremony at the Catholic Church Wednesday when a cutlass-carrying young man walked into the church and proceeded to chop one of the male graduating students.

Eyewitnesses said he seemed to have aimed for the neck of Otis Shearman whose left hand was almost severed when he raised it to defend himself. Shearman, who is now in hospital in a critical condition also

received other blows to the upper part of his body.

The incident, which brought an abrupt end to the ceremony, created an uproar in the church as students and other members of the audience scrambled for shelter.

Vicar General of the church, Fr Michael Stewart, had to be called in to offer counselling to the students many of whom said they were traumatized by the incident. Jamal Finch, the cutlass-wielding youth was later captured by police after he had fled the scene.

He appeared at the Kingstown magistrate's court Thursday on a charge of malicious wounding and was placed on remand until July 7, the police said. ¶ They are still searching for the weapon.

A school official told CANA they are still trying to come to terms with the incident and complete records from examinations, a new date therefore, has not been set for the graduation.

"I have blood running through me so it hurts," said Brown of the rumours of drug abuse, "but once you know they are rumours you just let them talk." Veteran musician/producer Sly Dunbar, who co-produced Brown's biggest hit, "Revolution", says reggae is at a loss for a talent such as Dennis Brown.

"He was one of a kind, he will be truly missed," said Dunbar.

Death of reggae star steeped in mystery

KINGSTON, Jamaica—Mystery shrouded the death of Dennis Brown Thursday as the reggae music industry grappled with the loss of another of its leading performers.

Brown's private life has come in for scrutiny in recent years with talk of drug abuse and a promiscuous lifestyle. But as the rumour mill swirled, most remembered the Rastafarian singer for the voluminous body of work he left.

"Let's leave the negatives behind, they are minor to positives he left behind," said Michael Barnett, a show promoter who was close to Brown. The positives of Dennis Brown, as Barnett says, far outweighs the negatives associated with him in recent years.

Regarded as the last of the great reggae singers, Brown was born on Orange Street in 1957. Because that location was dominated by record studios and stores it was dubbed "Beat Street". It seemed an appropriate origin for Brown who would begin recording at 12-years-old at the nearby Studio One where the Wailers and other noted Jamaican musicians got their start.

At Studio One, Brown recorded several hit songs as the "Boy Wonder". After leav-

ing Dodd, he scored a major hit for producer Derrick Harriott with "Silhouette" and another for Joe Gibbs with "Money In My Pockets". Brown's big break however, came with producer Winston "Ninety" Holness who was fashioning a new sound in the early 1970s.

Backed by the crack Soul Syndicate Band, Brown released a string of hits that were to remain a part of his live show. Borrowing heavily from soul singer Al Green, Brown's hits during that time included "Westbound Train", "Cassandra" and "Africa".

The latter saw him embracing the Rastafarian faith that had swept Jamaica and signalled the start of a new phase in the singer's career. But despite having a stranglehold on the local charts, Brown never achieved the worldwide acclaim of Marley or Peter Tosh. Instead, his long list of hits made him a favourite among ethnic audiences in Europe and the United States.

When his music transformed to ballads in the 1980s, he was signed briefly to A&M Records but by then his music had begun playing second fiddle to his personal life which came the subject of discussion in music circles.



A Nicaraguan child sits with his mother July 2 after being evicted by Costa Rican authorities earlier this week. Several hundred undocumented Nicaraguans have been evicted by authorities this week.

Sugar price up, no impact on inflation

KINGSTON, Jamaica—The price of sugar in Jamaica increased Thursday, and officials were quick to point out that it was not expected to have a major impact on the inflation rate.

The price of brown sugar moved from J\$8.20 (21 U.S. cents) per pound to J\$10.00 (25 U.S. cents) while refined sugar moved from J\$9 (23 U.S. cents) per pound to J\$11.67 (30 U.S. cents).

The price of Jamaican sugar was last increased in 1995. In announcing the price increases on Wednes-

day, head of the Jamaica Cane Producers, Karl James said it was an attempt to help keep the industry viable.

James said a sharp decline in the value of the Euro had reduced the price of Jamaican and Caribbean sugar exports to Europe by 12.5 per cent since January. And Agriculture Minister Roger Clarke gave an assurance that the increased sugar prices were not expected to have a major impact on Jamaica's inflation rate.

Safe Haven Training Day



Safe Haven shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault will hold a volunteer training on Saturday, July 10, at 9:30 am to 4:00 pm. The shelter needs child care assistance in the children's department, crisis line workers, volunteers to pick up donations, volunteers to assist with the everyday running of the house and telephone assistance. Qualifications include thoughtful, patient and non-judgemental community care givers. If you can give a few hours per week or day, or even twice a month, please call Lorraine at 70321 to reserve your space at Safe Haven Training Day.



U.S. President Bill Clinton speaks while "Challenger," an American bald eagle.

American bald eagle off endangered list

WASHINGTON—The American bald eagle is no longer endangered but still apparently free-spirited, as President Bill Clinton learned on Friday, when an eagle named Challenger took a nip at his hand at a White House ceremony.

Clinton and Challenger were together for an event to proclaim the expected removal of the eagle, a U.S. national symbol, from the endangered species list after 32 years.

The regal-looking bird, too accustomed to humans to survive in the wild, was drafted for the well-scripted pre-Independence Day event on the White House South Lawn and sat obediently on a perch atop a framed U.S. flag while Clinton, Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and Levar

Simms, a young representative of the Eagle Conservation Corps, made speeches.

When Clinton moved from the speaker's lectern over to the perch for a flag-draped photo, Challenger made his move, first giving beak-to-nose with the president, then leaning his head challengingly close to Clinton's shoulder and finally taking a peck at Clinton's hand that made the president jump back.

Calling the bald eagle "the living symbol of our democracy," Clinton said the eagle was chosen because it had "a free spirit, high soaring and courageous," in Thomas Jefferson's words. "Even as its likeness was known the world over as the very symbol of our night and our indelible presence, here in America the

eagle struggled barely to survive."

When the United States was born, he said, as many as half a million bald eagles lived in North America; 200 years later, only a few hundred breeding pairs existed in the contiguous 48 states. Bald eagles were first declared endangered in 1967, due to hunting, loss of prey and habitat and widespread use of the pesticide DDT, which made the birds' eggs too fragile to survive.

In 1995 the eagle was upgraded from endangered to threatened, and on Friday the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service formally proposed the eagle be declared fully recovered. Final action is due in one year.

Bush campaign develops "Reaganesque" optimism

PALO ALTO, California—Texas Gov. George W. Bush has established himself as the overwhelming favorite for the Republican presidential nomination while evoking memories of the political style of former President Ronald Reagan.

Bush's relentless sunny optimism, his determination to stick to generalities and avoid details and his occasional little gaffes, all so far overlooked by his admirers, are reminiscent of Reagan, the hero of millions of Republicans. "Bush has a pleasing personality and people definitely seem to like him. So far, he has avoided trouble by sticking to slogans and steering clear of specifics," said political scientist Gary Jacobson of the University of California, San Diego.

As Bush wrapped up a three-day swing through California, it was clear he had triumphantly overcome the first hurdle of his presidential campaign, meeting the sky-high expectations that had built up about him over the first half of the year when he stayed in his home state and refused to campaign. Bush completed the first half of the year leading the Republican presidential field in the polls by a huge margin, with an astounding \$36.3 million raised so far and ahead of Vice President Al Gore, his probable Democratic opponent in next year's election, by 15 to 20 percentage points.

"This is as good as it gets for any politician. Bush exudes optimism and people like that. We'll have to see down the road how deep his Teflon runs and how easily it scratches," said John Pitney, a political scientist at Claremont McKenna College in southern California. Reagan was dubbed the "Teflon president" because for much of his presidency from 1981 to 1989, mistakes and scandals seemed to slide away and not to stick to him. Optimism is one of the big themes of Bush's stump speech. "America wants to follow someone who is optimistic and I'm incredibly optimistic," he said in a fund-raising speech on Thursday in Silicon Valley. "This country is hungry for a new kind of campaign, a hopeful campaign, a positive campaign, an inclusive campaign. That's the kind of campaign I intend to run."

Rarely has a presidential candidate been anointed by his party in the way that Bush has, with state governors and legislators, senators and House of Representatives members and former Cabinet members rushing to endorse him.

Reagan had to fight for the nomination and twice lost before finally gaining it. Bush's father, former President George Bush, failed in his first attempt at the nomination and had a tough fight the second time. He only briefly enjoyed the adulation surround-

ing his eldest son after leading the United States to victory in war over Iraq.

Bush the son cannot boast anything like his father's political resume. The elder Bush was war hero, served in the House, headed the CIA, was U.S. representative to China and twice president for eight years. His son ran an oil business and was part-owner of a baseball team before becoming governor of Texas in 1995.

Bush has made a series of small gaffes on the campaign trail, referring to Kosovars and "Kosovarians" and mixing up Slovakia and Slovenia. So far, they have all been largely ignored.

One key difference between Bush and Reagan lies in the times. Reagan operated during the Cold War, where his strong anti-Communism always gave voters a clear idea of where he would stand on that issue. Bush is operating in a much more confusing, less clear-cut environment.

"Reagan got away with remarkable ignorance because he was very clear about his basic principles. I don't think Bush is there yet," said Jacobson.

Economic boom bypasses millions of Americans

WASHINGTON—The U.S. economic boom has been a bust for more than 35 million Americans, some of whom President Bill Clinton will meet next week on his cross-country tour of the nation's poorest areas.

Despite seven years of unprecedented growth and a median

household income approaching \$40,000, many still live below adequate economic resources, according to the Census Bureau's annual report on poverty. For the bureau's purposes, a family of four was regarded as poor if its annual income was \$16,400 or less; for a family of three the poverty threshold was \$12,802.

In 1997, the latest year for which statistics have been released, the overall U.S. poverty rate fell from 13.7 percent to 13.3 percent, but that still left 35.6 million in the "poor" category.

The poverty rate for Indians living on reservations was 31 percent, for Hispanics 27.1 percent and for blacks 26.3 percent—all more than twice that of whites. The number of poor blacks was 9.1 million. For Hispanics the figure was 8.3 million.

The gap between the wealthiest and the poorest Americans remained the same.

Fewer Americans than ever getting married

NEW YORK—The number of Americans getting married has dropped to a 40-year-low as divorce and changing attitudes have replaced "I do" with "I won't," researchers said on Friday.

A study by Rutgers University's National Marriage Project found that Americans have not given up on marriage as an ideal, but statistics show a precipitous drop since 1960 in the number of couples who actually walk down the aisle. "The institution of marriage is in serious trouble," said David Popenoe, who co-wrote the study. "The State of Our Unions: The Social Health of Marriage in America," with Barbara Dafoe Whitehead. "The current generation has

grown up in the midst of the divorce revolution, so they are extremely wary and cautious about entering into marriage," Whitehead told Reuters, commenting on the report.

The report said Americans are less likely to marry than ever before, those who do marry appear to be less happy than previous generations, and despite a small drop in the divorce rate, nearly 50 percent of all marriages will end in divorce.

According to the report, the number of marriages per 1,000 unmarried women aged 15 or older dropped to about 49.7 in 1996 versus 87.5 in 1960. At the same time, the number of unmarried couples living with each other rose to 4.2 million in 1998 versus 439,000 in 1960.

"A lot has happened in a very short period. Attitudes and expectations toward marriage have changed drastically," Whitehead said in explaining the statistics.

The secularization of society, extended affluence, a change in what Americans expect from marriage all contributed, she said. "We are economically doing very well. But maybe as a nation we're emotionally not at that level."

One of the more troubling aspects of the report for the future of the institution is the drop in teen confidence in marriage. "Young people today want successful marriages, but they are increasingly anxious and pessimistic about their chances for achieving that goal," Whitehead said.

NOTICE

To whom it may concern

Mr. Pierre Malanda Soumarey is no longer employed as Director of VCR Car Rental N.V. d.b.a. Value Car Rental.

He is no longer authorized to represent the company.

Britain, Ireland announce blueprint for peace



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (L) and Irish Premier Bertie Ahern smile during the final news conference at Stormont, after an agreement had been reached after five days of talks.

BELFAST—Britain and Ireland on Friday announced a plan—but not a formal agreement—to set up a coalition Northern Ireland government this month and to start guerrilla disarmament within days of it coming into force.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair fervently urged the British province's war-

ring Protestant and Roman Catholic parties to grasp a chance for a lasting peace by endorsing the plan. "This is an historic opportunity. Now is the time to seize it," Blair told reporters.

He said the plan, a bold bid to rescue a stalled peace process, entailed the Irish Republican Army (IRA) starting the process of disarmament

within days of an administration, shared by Protestant and Catholic parties, being established on July 15. "All parties have agreed to consult (their supporters) on these proposals," Blair said as five days of relentless talks between the two governments and Protestant unionist and republican parties came to an end.

Blair and Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said in a joint statement that they believed the political leaders of the divided community "will support" the plan. U.S. President Bill Clinton, who was closely involved in the negotiations, swiftly added his voice to appeals for the warring parties to accept the plan and end 30 years of violence. "This is a major opportunity to resolve that difficult problem forever in ways that are good for all the people there, so that's good news," Clinton said in Washington.

Asked to speak to those who may be dissatisfied with the plan, Clinton replied, "I would say to those who are sceptical, there are guarantees here. Don't let this thing come apart now."

But pro-British unionist leader David Trimble reserved judgment and said he wanted further details. "We have still not secured any commitment (on disarming) that would be recognised by unionists. We consider that the guarantees are weak," Trimble said.

"Democracy cannot co-ex-

ist with terrorism, it cannot co-exist with private armies," Trimble said.

Sinn Féin leader Gerry Adams was more upbeat, saying there will be an enormous sigh of relief around

begins," leading to the handover of actual arms within weeks and the removal of all weapons by May 2000.

The formula entails de-
Chastelain policing progress



Adams



Trimble

this island and around the world tonight. "We hope the gap of distrust has begun to be bridged. All of us have a mighty job to do."

Trimble's powerful Ulster Unionist Party (UUP), which supports continued rule from Britain, and Sinn Féin, the political wing of the IRA, had been locked in a bitter wrangle since the landmark peace deal was signed on April 10 last year over disarmament and formation of a coalition cabinet. Unionists have refused to sit in a ministerial executive along with Sinn Féin until the IRA hands in arms.

The governments' blueprint came after they had received a report from Canadian General John de Chastelain, the head of the province's disarmament commission, who said he thought the IRA would endorse a guarantee given by Sinn Féin on Thursday that there could be IRA disarmament by May 2000.

The Blair-Ahern plan said a cabinet could be established by July 15, with full powers transferred from the national parliament in London by July 18. Blair said that if the proposals were implemented "devolution will begin and shortly after that, within days, the process of decommissioning

on scrapping arms. His commission "will confirm a start to the process of decommissioning," the plan stated.

"Devolution must be certain, decommissioning must be certain and there must be an absolute failsafe if neither are met," Blair said.

Under a failsafe clause, the governments said any slipshod on either would lead them to suspend the agreement immediately. "If there are not deeds and actions, the whole thing is scrapped," Blair told reporters.

News Analysis

Peace intact but wounds open

BELFAST—Northern Ireland's peace deal has survived five days of talks but the distrust and fear at the heart of the political row still hold sway on the streets of Belfast.

As proposals put forward by the British and Irish governments were announced, the Roman Catholics and Protestants of the city were debating the future. The distrust and confusion that stymied the political talks at the Castle Buildings all week were reflected in city pubs.

"I can't see the two communities coming together in the future because (the hatred) is bred into people," Stanley, a 64-year-old unionist said. "If the IRA can't sign up to an agreement (to give up their arms) in the next year, where do we go from there?"

Northern Ireland's parties spent the week debating the ins and outs of dis-

armament. The pro-British Ulster Unionists insisted the Irish Republican Army must give up its weapons before its political wing Sinn Féin took its seats in the new provincial assembly. But Sinn Féin says the Unionists have reneged on the Good Friday peace deal and that anyway, Sinn Féin is not the IRA.

"There is not a ceasefire in this country," said Cahane, 54, who served 24 years with the British army, pointing out that even on Friday a man was shot twice in the city—just one more incident in a regular flow of sporadic violence.

Politicians during the week spoke of the need for a leap of faith, but that might be too much to ask of the two divided communities. "They've been talking in this country for 30 years. This is the first time we've got down to the nitty gritty and its bringing all the dirt from

the bottom of the barrel," John said.

"I've got nothing against Roman Catholics, but they want to take away my heritage," said Stanley.

This fear is echoed by the Protestant Orange Order, whose annual marching season is, for them, a proud assertion of their tradition. For Catholics, the marches are simply provocative. On Sunday, the Orange Order march in Drumcree threatens to provide another spark for the fire of sectarianism.

"It's seen as the last stand for Protestantism. I think its being made into something horrible," said Anne, a 30-year-old Catholic community worker from Belfast.

British troops on Friday erected razor wire fortifications in fields near the church of Drumcree. In recent years, the parade has triggered ugly confrontations between Prot-

estants and riot police.

But there is some hope for the province. "I think (the politicians) are just ironing out the differences now," said William, a 36-year-old Protestant.

Anne said disarmament would always be a stumbling block but that it was irrelevant. "A lot of people would see it as surrender, as saying 'We've lost the war'. It's a token. It means very little," she said.

The mainstream guerrilla groups in Northern Ireland have signed ceasefires after a 30-year war against British rule that triggered a tit-for-tat sectarian killing spree that claimed 3,600 lives. Belfast is now at peace, but the legacy of pain is heavy.

"There is a whole network of hurt, the hurt is amazing. I work with wee young lads who have lost parents. It's hard to say you'll leave the past behind if you've lost your Dad," Anne said.

Barak to meet Arafat, warns Clinton he is no pushover

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister-elect Ehud Barak on Friday promised the first Israeli-Palestinian summit in nearly seven months while signalling to Washington he would be no pushover in negotiations.

Breaking Barak's self-imposed moratorium on public diplomacy since his May 17 election, spokesmen for Barak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat said the two leaders agreed in a phone call to meet soon after Barak takes office next week. Neither side gave a date for the meeting.

Barak campaigned on a promise to accelerate peace moves frozen by rightist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, who last met

Arafat in December during a three-way summit in Gaza with U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Spokesman David Zisso said Barak wanted to restore trust and get the peace process moving by following in the steps of his mentor Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli leader who launched peace moves in 1993 and was killed by a right-wing Jew in 1995. "President Arafat on his part stressed his full commitment to the peace process for the sake of the region, not just for the Palestinian-Israeli track, but for the Syrian and Lebanese tracks as well," said chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat.

In his first diplomatic act with Israel's closest ally, the United States, Barak re-

proached Clinton for having said on Thursday he would like Palestinian refugees to be free to live wherever they like. "President Clinton's stance on the matter of the right of return, as it might be understood from his remarks yesterday in Washington, is unacceptable to Barak," said Barak's spokeswoman Merav Parisi-Tzadok. "It's apparently a misunderstanding, and it would have been appropriate for the administration to clarify and correct it."

The U.S. Embassy in Israel later said that Washington had not changed its position on the contentious refugee issue. "The issue of Palestinian refugees is a matter that has been reserved for permanent status negotiations and that, like all permanent status issues, needs to be dealt with and resolved by the parties themselves," an embassy statement said.

Israeli politicians across the political spectrum assailed Clinton for any suggestion that Palestinians might return to the homes they left with Israel's creation in 1948 and that are part of Israel today. Chief diplomatic correspondent Shimon Shiffer of Israel's biggest newspaper Yedioth Ahronoth said that Barak aimed to make clear to the Arabs and Washington along with right-wingers in his government that he could be tough in negotiations.

Indonesia army warns of tense presidential poll

JAKARTA—Indonesian armed forces commander General Wiranto warned on Friday that tension could rise if November's presidential election involves more than one candidate.

Thousands of police would be deployed for the vote by the People's Consultative Assembly (MPR), Indonesia's highest legislative body, he said. "What we need to be on the alert for is that in the run-up to the 1999 MPR session the political heat will increase, along with the possibility of the emergence of more than one presidential candidate,"

Wiranto told a parliamentary hearing.

"We have planned to have a police force of 21,000 personnel (in Jakarta) added by the reserve forces from elements of the military and from the public," he said.

The MPR meets to elect the president every five years. In November, it is scheduled to meet to elect the next president, following last month's parliamentary poll. The body has never before had a choice of candidates in an Indonesian presidential election, but there are several potential candidates this time.



Young Kosovo Albanians hold aloft an Albanian flag as they celebrate "Kosovo Day", previously banned when Serbs ran the province, in Pristina on Friday. The day marks a defiant autonomy vote nine years ago by ethnic Albanian assembly members.

NATO arrests Serb troops in Kosovo

PRISTINA, Serbia—Kosovo Albanian and Serb leaders held emergency talks on Friday in a bid to check violence and vengeance as ethnic Albanian refugees flood back into the province.

In a happier mood, crowds of young people filled city streets to celebrate "Kosovo Day".

NATO peacekeeping troops meanwhile arrested Dragan Marjanovic, leader of a makeshift militia formed on the Serb side of the divided flashpoint town of Mitrovica. In another town, six Serbs were arrested with weapons in a building from which radio messages were being transmitted, and at Kosovo's



Kouchner

northern boundary, NATO arrested five Yugoslav soldiers who appeared to have strayed across from Serbia.

The United Nations named its new chief representative

in Kosovo, who will manage civilian operations alongside the NATO peacekeepers. He is French Health Minister Bernard Kouchner, who made his name as founder of the medical charity Medecins sans Frontieres (Doctors without Borders) and is a high-profile, sometimes abrasive, advocate of armed intervention in world troubles.

He takes over from Sergio Vieira de Mello, who held the job on a temporary basis and convened Friday's emergency Serb-Albanian meeting, saying that "a fairly high level of insecurity in certain parts of Kosovo cannot be allowed to persist." Attending on the Serb side were representatives of the Serbian Orthodox church, led by Archbishop Artermije, and Momcilo Trajkovic's Serbian Democratic Movement, which is opposed to Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

After seven hours of talks with the provisional government set up by Hashim Thaci's ethnic Albanian guerrillas, they issued a joint statement denouncing "the crimes of the Milosevic regime" and appealing to everyone in Kosovo to live in peace. "Peace can only be built on justice, not on revenge," they declared.

Thousands of young Kosovo Albanians flooded into the streets of Pristina and other Kosovo towns on Friday evening, celebrating, for the first time in public, the day they call "Kosovo Day".

July 2, 1990 was when ethnic Albanian members of Kosovo's abolished provincial parliament defied the Serb authorities with a meeting outside their locked assembly building. Commemoration of the date was banned by the Serbian authorities.

Russia, France look to future after strains

MOSCOW—France and Russia said on Friday the Kosovo crisis had proved a test for their traditionally good relations, but vowed to overcome the problems and look to the future.

"Friendship and partnership with France are vital for Russia. We are friends and will remain friends," President Boris Yeltsin said during talks with French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin, who was on a two-day visit to Moscow.

Yeltsin, who led Moscow's fierce opposition to NATO's 78-day bombing campaign against Yugoslavia, chided France over its stance on Kosovo as a member of the Western military alliance.

Jospin, who gave a joint news conference with Russian Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin, said relations had gone through a "form

of test". He told Yeltsin that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic had left the alliance no alternative to air strikes, but he also tried to ease Russian fears that NATO is seeking to expand its zone of influence beyond Europe.

"For us, NATO must remain a regional security organisation and not a global political organisation," a French diplomat quoted Jospin as telling Yeltsin.

The talks, described by French diplomats as "very frank and quite warm," focused on mutual economic relations and the Yugoslav situation. They were also attended by Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Trade Minister Mikhail Fradkov.

Yeltsin made clear that Kosovo would not upset wider relations between the two countries, which are

nuclear powers and permanent members of the United Nations Security Council. Russian peacekeepers are now being deployed in the French, American and German sectors of Kosovo as part of the NATO-led international KFOR security force.

"We hope this cooperation on the ground will serve as an example (for future cooperation)," Jospin told the joint news conference with Stepashin.

Stepashin reiterated Russia's belief that Serbia should share some of the blame for the crisis in Kosovo. But, making clear he and Jospin had not agreed on all matters about Kosovo, Stepashin said Russia remained opposed to the linking of the delivery of aid to Yugoslavia with Milosevic's removal as president.

Rumours expose weak points of Zhu Rongji

BEIJING—Rumours swirling through Asian markets this week about the resignation of Chinese premier Zhu Rongji have highlighted his vulnerability even though few analysts take the reports seriously.

Zhu has come under fire from powerful domestic forces, who have accused him of selling out state-owned enterprises and farmers in his eagerness to open the country to outside competition in a bid to join the World Trade Organisation. "He is exposed and probably weakened to some extent," one Western diplomat said.

Hardliners in China's Communist hierarchy are believed to have intensified criticism of Zhu after NATO bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in May. The United States has apologised and said the bombing was a "mistake" caused by outdated maps, but China has rejected the explanation as "unconvincing". State media and many ordinary Chinese are convinced it was deliberate. "Exposed is one thing, but resigning is another," the diplomat said.

Rumours that Zhu might step down swept Asia's financial markets on Wednesday and caused jitters in Hong Kong. China's State Council, or cabinet, dismissed the speculation as groundless. But Shanghai's B index and domestic A share markets all lost more than seven percent on Thursday as the rumours trickled into China's bourses.

"There was always that speculation that he was on the backfoot since the WTO problems, and the failure to get agreement in the bombing of the embassy," one Asian diplomat said. Zhu's failure to nail down a WTO deal during a visit to the United States in April, even after offering major concessions, was believed to have undermined his position.

But diplomats and stock

traders were sceptical of the resignation rumours, which have surfaced several times since Zhu took office in March 1998 and touted a tough reform programme that threatened powerful bureaucratic interests and millions of jobs in the bloated, loss-making state sector. "There is an economic cost obviously in terms of markets because he is so well known and liked by foreigners," the Western envoy said.

"I think there would be ripples all the way through China's economy and foreign investors would be very cautious," the diplomat said. "The ripples through the system would be quite enormous, there is a risk that it would result in chaos."

If Zhu resigned, it could be destabilising ahead of the 50th anniversary of the People's Republic on October 1 and the return of the Portuguese-administered enclave of Macau to Chinese rule on December 20. "They still need him to run the economy," the Asian diplomat said. "Their problems will not go away just because they get rid of him. If they get rid of him now, how do they handle that slew of difficult economic decisions that need to be taken?"

China is grappling with several problems—a lumbering state sector, technically bankrupt state banks, widespread corruption, unemployment, rising crime and disgruntled peasants—after two decades of sweeping economic reforms.

A second Western diplomat noted that Zhu had been known to muse that his life would be a lot easier had he taken a job in academia after a lengthy career as an economic planner. Zhu once famously joked that he came to the premiership with 100 cofins at the ready—99 for enemies and opponents of reform and one for himself.



The ground scarred where a Pic de Bure cablecar plunged 80 metres (260 ft), killing all 20 people aboard.

Cablecar probe starts in grieving village

SAINT-ETIENNE-EN-DEVOLUY, France—Investigators in this small Alpine village began on Friday picking over the shattered remains of the Pic de Bure cablecar which plunged 80 metres (260 ft), killing all 20 people aboard.

With the grim work of removing the bodies completed overnight, the authorities turned to trying to figure out what went wrong and caused France's worst cable car disaster.

Paramilitary gendarmes started the painstaking process. Two of them brought down the car's crumpled control panel. An officer said a first step would be to lower the still-intact carrying cables and inspect them for wear or damage.

The observatory served by the cable car was isolated by Thursday's crash. Village mayor Jean-Marie Bernard told reporters it would reopen on Monday with sci-

tists ferried back and forth by helicopter. The observatory, run by a French-German Spanish institute, is used by astronomers all over the world to monitor stellar activity through giant dishes.

Most of the about 80 gendarmes who arrived shortly after the crash were still in the area, protecting the crash site and keeping curious onlookers away from the village church where seven bodies still lay waiting to be reclaimed by families. Authorities kept a cordon around the crash site, about three kilometres (two miles) outside the village on a grassy slope leading to a steep cliff on the cablecar's two-km (1-1/4 mile) route.

Journalists' cars were turned back well out of sight of the wreckage. Army mountain scouts were on standby nearby at the disposal of investigators. "We're here to do whatever is needed. This disaster response is part of

our brief," said an officer who declined to be named.

In addition to the technical probe, a judicial investigation for suspected manslaughter was set to be opened by state prosecutor Michel Sclaries, based in the nearby city of Gap. Sclaries has said there could have been serious failures in the cablecar machinery. He planned no further statement Friday.

The regional newspaper Dauphine Libere said maintenance operations on the hook and brake connecting the car to the pulling cable had been carried out on Wednesday by a man who was killed in the crash hours later.

In an indication that the brake may have failed, Jean-Pierre Huard of the Poma company which built the cablecar has said it appeared to have slid backwards. As it gathered speed, it unhooked and fell, he said.

Robust June job report shows solid US economy

WASHINGTON—U.S. employers hired new workers at a brisk pace in June even as the unemployment rate edged higher, showing the economy remains vigorous.

In its closely watched monthly employment report on Friday, the Labour Department said the number of workers on payrolls outside the farm sector swelled by 268,000 in June. That followed a 5,000 drop in pay-

rolls in May. Job growth was led by the vast service sector.

The U.S. unemployment rate rose slightly last month to 4.3 percent from 4.2 percent the month before. An influx of new workers into the labour force was the reason the jobless rate rose despite the strong hiring.

"This was a very strong report," said David Wyss, chief economist at DRI/McGraw-Hill. "The gain that we had in

June employment relieves any worries the drop in May might be the start of a trend."

The data helped boost U.S. share prices and the Dow Jones industrial average ended at a record high of 11,339.24.

The jobs data showed the unemployment rate for African-Americans dipped to a new low of 7.3 percent. One area of weakness was the factory sector, which shed 35,000 positions. A slew of recent data have shown manufacturing is reviving after a severe slump, but that has yet to translate into a turnaround on the factory floor.

The Commerce Department reported on Friday that the value of new factory orders rose a stronger-than-expected 1.1 percent in May, partly reversing a 1.4 percent drop in April.

The overall pace of hiring exceeded the expectations of economists in a Reuters survey. The economists, on average, had expected a June job gain of 220,000 but they thought the unemployment rate would stay steady at 4.2 percent.

Wall Street reaction was muted. Although the data showed solid growth, investors said it was not enough to spur new worries about rises in interest rates by the Federal Reserve. "The report doesn't move the Fed any closer or any further away from tightening interest rates," said Chris Rupkey, economist at Bank of Tokyo/Mitsubishi in New York.

The benchmark 30-year U.S. Treasury bond ended up 2/32 point. Its yield, which moves in the opposite direction of the price, was unchanged from Thursday at 6.01 percent.

The jobs report came just two days after the Fed raised its key short-term interest rate by a quarter-percentage point. The Fed also said it dropped its formal bias to higher rates in a sign it thought its modest move might be enough to head off inflation and prevent an economic overheating.

But financial markets are keeping an especially close eye on economic data for any signs of building inflationary pressures that might prompt the Fed to reconsider that view. "The Fed is worried about tight labour markets and the risk of inflation," said Gary Thayer, economist at A.G. Edwards in St. Louis. "There's still nothing in this report that suggests the Fed will have to raise rates anytime soon."



A worker at a supermarket puts cans of Coca-Cola on shelves in Namur, in southern Belgium on Friday.

Coca-Cola buys free drinks for Belgians

ATLANTA—Coca-Cola Co. made good Friday on a promise to buy everyone in Belgium a Coke following a contamination scare that forced the recall of millions of soft drinks across Europe, a company spokesman said.

"There are 5,000 T-shirted people sticking coupons in the mailboxes of every home in Belgium," Bill Hensel, spokesman at Coca-Cola headquarters in Atlanta, said. Hensel said the coupons were each good for a 1.5 litre bottle of Coca-Cola products.

Coke Chairman Douglas Ivester had told consumers in Belgium last week that he would buy every person in the country—about 10 million people—a Coca-Cola beverage once the company

was allowed to resume distribution of its products.

Earlier Friday, Coca-Cola Beverages Plc's Polish affiliate said it had been hit by a fresh contamination scare and had recalled 180,000 bottles of recently launched Bonaqua Plus mineral water.

The water was found to contain harmless bacteria, Coca-Cola Poland said, which it picked up as a result of improper cleaning procedures on production lines. It said the problem has since been rectified.

It was the third recall of Coca-Cola products in Poland this week. Previously, mineral water and soft drinks had been recalled because of poorly washed bottles.



Cans of beer are shown representing Brazil's two largest beverage manufacturers, Antarctica and Brahma, in Rio de Janeiro on Friday.

Brazil brewing merger ends century-old brawl

SAO PAULO—The mega-merger of Brazilian brewing giants Brahma and Antarctica made drinking buddies out of ferocious foes Friday after a century-long barroom brawl.

The day after surprising the corporate world and consumers alike with plans to form the world's third-largest brewer and Brazil's biggest private company, the presidents of Brahma and Antarctica were toasting their plans to conquer the Americas. Financial terms were not disclosed.

"The fundamental focus of the association is the strengthening of the two companies so that we can have sufficient size to compete internationally, principally in the Americas," Antarctica President Victorio Carlos de Marchi said at a news conference. Brahma President Marcel Telles said the association—with a market value estimated by analysts at \$3.8 billion to \$4.8 billion—"would never happen if we were just looking at Brazil."

Under the plan, Brahma would emerge as the dominant partner, with its controlling shareholders owning 46 percent of the voting capital of the new company, Companhia de Bebidas das Americas (AmBev), while Antarctica's main shareholders will have 23 percent. The rest will be distributed in the market.

But as the co-presidents spoke of lofty international plans, some analysts were convinced it was Brazil's marketplace that pushed the erstwhile

competitors to agree to the formation of AmBev, the third-biggest beermaker behind U.S.-based Anheuser Busch Cos. Inc. and Heineken of the Netherlands. With Brahma Chopp, Skol and Antarctica brands and a slew of microbrews, AmBev will control nearly 75 percent of the beer market in a nation of 160 million people, and 40 percent of the overall drinks market, analysts said.

"As they try to focus on the international side, they might be diverting attention from the Cadu (antitrust board) and the local market," said Ana Florez, Latin American beverage analyst for brokerage AB Moneda in Sao Paulo.

Internet firm tackles credit card fears

HONG KONG—On-line shoppers worried about sending their credit card details over the Internet will be able to charge web purchases to their telephone bill instead if software from a Hong Kong company takes off.

New Media Corp said on Friday it aims to launch its NetCharger product in 40 countries over the next three months, aiming to eliminate the security concerns associated with sending credit card numbers over the Internet. The product is aimed mainly at the emerging market for buying "content" from web sites, specifically small charges for such items as downloads of software, music, games or financial information.

"If you look at the speed of growth of the Internet outside the United States, we feel that we have got a really good global billing product," New Media Director Andrew Wilson told Reuters in a telephone interview. "Our intention is to be worldwide, to be actually in at least 40 countries within the next three months."

Hong Kong-listed Essential Enterprises Co Ltd, a business club and investment company, is believed to be in talks to buy a stake in New Media, according to market sources. Trading in Essential shares was suspended on Friday pending a statement regarding the possible acquisition of a controlling stake in a telecommunications and Internet firm.

Wilson declined to comment on the market speculation.

Stock Market Report

Key Stock Movements July 2 1999

	DAY'S CLOSE	CHANGE IN POINTS	HIGH	LOW
NEW YORK	11,339.24	+72.62	11,107.19	9,120.67
			(May 14)	(Jan 22)
LONDON	6,491.9	+3.0	6,598.8	5,770.2
			(Apr 28)	(Feb 10)
TOKYO	17,932.47	+71.72	17,932.47	13,232.74
			(July 2)	(Jan 5)
FRANKFURT	5,519.05	+38.83	5,519.05	4,643.52
			(July 2)	(Mar 2)

London Currency Fixing Rates July 1 1999

Following are the middle exchange rates for leading currencies against the dollar:

	CURRENT	HIGH	LOW
Euro	1.0245	1.0255	1.021
Japanese Yen	120.92	121.25	120.75
British Pound	1.5782	1.5795	1.5699
Dutch Guilder	2.15	2.1573	2.1489
French Franc	6.3996	6.4215	6.3965
German Mark	1.9081	1.9147	1.9072
Italian Lire	1889.04	1895.52	1888.12
Brazilian Real	1.76	1.78	1.76
Canadian Dollar	1.4634	1.4744	1.4627
Hong Kong Dollar	7.758	7.7587	7.7585
Mexican Peso	9.339	9.382	9.342

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1993 Toyota Camry, red, American imported, fully loaded, automatic, sunroof, A/C. In good condition. Tel. 94234 or 23352.

BMW 318i, red, must drive to appreciate, \$3,400. Subaru, white, A/C, good interior, good body, \$2,200. Tel. 90982.

1994 Ford Escort GT, black, 2 door, automatic, in good condition, \$4,800. Call 43884 or 71040.

Beachfront properties. Excellent business investment. Front Street \$295,000. incl. building presently a restaurant. **Anguilla best developable beach** next to Malliouhanna \$1,200,000 incl. two villa's and plans for 38 additional villa's. Good terms. Call 76722 or 52769.

1985 BMW, standard, 4 doors, grey, \$3,500. **1990 Chevy Corsica**, blue, 4 doors, \$2,500. Tel. 78032 or 75896.

100 KW Generator: 260 gallon fuel tank, 400 amp. transfer switch, 400 amp. panel box, 400 amp. breakers, \$15,000. Call 52070 or 52071. Contact person: Mr. Luthson.

Waterfront lots at Oyster Pond: two large adjoining prime building sites incl. deeded waterfront rights, size 3,404 m² + 206 ft. waterfront and 2,820 m² + 185 ft. waterfront, \$110 per m². CEE water & elec. Contact Fax: 23549 or email: dthallom@sinimaarten.net.

Sucker Garden: parcel of land, 1,300m², commercial/residential, \$85,000. Call 24240 or 75462.

Pointe Piroquette - wow: waterfront 2 bath, 3 bed, apartment, fully furn. with private pool, deck and docking facilities. **No money down,** 20 years financing by owner at 9.9%. Call 76722 or 52769.

1987 Suzuki Jeep, white, new inspection plates, big wheels, rims are silver aluminium. \$2,000. Tel. (00590) 271370, call anytime, leave message. Urgent sale needed.

Pointe Piroquette Waterfront 2 bed, 3 bath villa, fully furn. with private pool, deck and boatdock. \$220,000. Down payment 30%. Balance financed by owner at 8%. Call 76722 or 52769.

1994 Ford Mustang, laser red, V6, 3.8 liter, fully loaded, low mileage, must sell leaving island. Tel. 95169.



Yardsale + BBQ on Friday, July 2nd, Saturday, July 3rd + Sunday, July 4th: toys, houseware, antique items etc. BBQ plates: 5, 5 drinks & 1. Location: 2 lips flower shop in Simpson Bay (opposite the Police Station).



1 and 2 bedr. apartments, security, great view, new kitchens, Cable TV and telephone lines. Starting at \$750 p/m. Dawn Beach area. Call Peter at 75118 or 36047.

Airport Road - two apartments for rent: 2 bedr., 1 bath, unfurnished, \$675 p/m and \$750 p/m. Please call 53507 during office hours.

3 bedr., 2 bath, semi-furnished, Simpson Bay. \$1,350 p/m. Tel. 74464.

Pelican Key: sea view home large 2 bedr. house with all appliances, private parking, pool and jacuzzi, \$1,600 p/m. Tel. 44373.

3 bedr., 2 bath, house with fenced yard, fully furnished. Dawn Beach Estates, \$1,250 p/m. Call 74835 or 36008.

One shop available for rent in Front Street, opposite Little Switzerland in alley, \$1,450 p/m. Contact Peter or Sunny at 20099.

Dutch Cul de Sac: 2 bedr. apartment with large private balcony in quiet location, \$700 p/m. Call between 8-4 for appointment at 26281.

Pointe Piroquette: 1 bedr. apt. fully furn, A/C + pool. 2 bedr., 1 bath apt. fully furn, A/C + pool. 2 bedr., 2 bath apt., fully furn, A/C + pool. 3 bedr., 3 bath. villa, fully furn, A/C + private pool starting at \$625 to \$1,900 p/m. Call 54207.

Super overlooking Plum Bay, common pool, furnished, available now, \$585 p/m, one month deposit required. Call (00590) 872221.

Newly renovated 2 bedr. house, unfurnished at Marianne Estate, Cole Bay. Easy access to Cole Bay area, close to supermarket. Directly available. \$650 p/m. For more info call 25103/26652.

3 bedr. newly renovated, unfurnished house at Marianne Estate, Cole Bay. Easy access to Cole Bay area, close to supermarket. Directly available. \$800 p/m. For more info call 25103/26652.

Marianne Estate, Cole Bay: 3 bedr., 1 1/2 bath, house, great location, A/C in master bedroom, hot & cold water, ceiling fans. For more info call 53049.

Large unfurnished 3 bedr., 2 bath, apartment. Garden with private parking space. Located at Union Farm Estate. Directly available, \$900 p/m. For more info call 25103/26652.

Cupe Coy: 1 bedr., 1 bath, apartment, fully furn, A/C, \$850 p/m, electricity not included. Available July 1st. Call 53035.

Studio apartment, \$550 p/m furnished, Cable TV incl., Lily Road # 8, Saunders. Tel. 25472 or 83564.

Furnished studio, beautiful view to Saba, Tel. and Cable available, \$550 p/m. 1st of July. Tel. 76079 or 22421.

Cupe Coy Beach Club: 1 bedr., 2 bath, apartment, pool, security, parking, \$1,300 p/m. Call 25785.

Executive office space: convenient Phillipsburg location, \$1,300 p/m. Call 25785.

New Virgin Building Annex, fully furn, 2 bedr., 2 bath, luxury apartment with study in convenient Phillipsburg location, \$1,500 p/m. Call 25785.

1 bedr. apartment in The Keys, Sucker Garden, unfurnished, \$350 p/m. Tel. 97764 or 28138.

1 bedr. apartment, fully furnished, includes A/C, location: C.A. Cannegieter Street 105, Phillipsburg, Tel. 31076.

Beacon Hill: 2 bedr. apartment \$900 p/m and a 1 bedr. apartment \$500 p/m. For info call 23126.

Lagoon Garden Apartments, Cole Bay: secure waterfront 1 bedr. apartment, fully furn, Cable TV, swimming pool, \$950 p/m + utilities. Call 45853.

2 bedr., 1 bath, spacious apartment, quiet area, \$550 p/m. Entrance Union Farm Estate. Lower Prices Quarter. Tel. 73323.

Nightclub/discotheque/restaurant 200m². Ready for operation in Simpson Bay, ample parking. Seating 200 persons, \$55,000 invested. Rental monthly \$2,500. Contract 2 years plus 3 years. Call 25276/22280/96018.

2 bedr. fully furnished apartment at Cherry Hill Estate, Oyster Pond. Contact 36169 or 97746.

Warehouses for rent, long or short term, 20 ft x 8 ft x 10 ft high or 20 ft x 16 ft x 10 ft high. Call Jan at 75107.

Regular: one insertion \$4/full week (6x) \$20
Highlighted: one insertion \$6/full week \$30
Commercial rate: \$60 for one full week

Pondfill Road: desirable office building (6 rooms) with A/C, security, built-in furnishings. \$2,700, ready for operation. **Bus Road: Ideal business place, formerly Orchard Flowershop.** 1,500 - 1,600 sq.ft. \$2,500 & \$3,000, parking front & back & containers. Call 25276/22280/96018.



Hel Heru Women's Healing Dance Workshop, July 29-30-31, 1999. Registration: open seats are limited. Free demonstration, Every Saturday from 4 - 5pm. Call 42903.

Garden and landscape maintenance and design services. Call the professionals at 23238 or 24205.

ESCORT SERVICE INTERNATIONAL. Female & male escorts. Models (European, Caribbean, South American), hotel, home, travel companions, private party's, party arrangements. Confidential day & night. Call now 91414.

Superlearning French - speak survival French within 3 months. Free demonstration. Every Tuesday from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. at Shambhala. Tel. 42903.

MEDITATION. Come and join a group meditation to help heal Mother Earth on Saturdays at Shambhala across from the Atrium Hotel. Doors close at 5 minutes to 6 p.m. Tel. 42903 or 96044.

Institute for Music Education; summer music vocation camp for children between 4 - 12 years old. July 5th till July 9th or July 12th till July 16th from 7:30am - 4:30pm. Fully qualified teachers for music-art-drama and gymnastics. Each child gets a certificate of participation. Location: Sundial School. To enroll call Eve at 74961 or after 7 pm 28208.



Help wanted - Cleaner/Gardener. Duties a.o.: cleaning of beach, maintaining of gardens, cleaning of redrooms & other facilities, removing & cleaning of garbage containers. Must speak English. Must work weekends. Antileans preferred. Please call 36160 for more information.

Wanted... experienced female **P.A.D.I. Dive Instructor.** Call Saba Saba at (04) 62246.



WINNER of raffle on June 30th at Dave's Hideout Bar & Restaurant. Ticket # 0055, name (mr. R. Hodge).

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British oil companies hail North Sea tax break

LONDON—Britain's beleaguered offshore oil industry on Friday welcomed a government plan to restore a tax break, saying it could help prolong North Sea exploration and production.

Shell U.K. Exploration and Production and BP Amoco said the proposal to give capital gains tax rollover relief would help sustain trading of assets among producers in the 30-year-old petroleum province. "We can shuffle the pack more effectively to get the best out of the North Sea. That's good both for the companies and for the country," a BP Amoco spokesman said.

The UK Offshore Operators Association said the move was an incentive for companies to maximise production levels and maximise their investments in the maturing oil province. "The measure shows government's commitment to secure the long terms future of the UK offshore industry and the 380,000 jobs that depend on it," an association spokesman said.

The industry group said it also offered scope to extend field life and prolong employment in an industry producing around 2.7 million barrels per day of crude oil.

British tax authorities said on Thursday they would propose giving oil companies capital gains tax rollover relief when they sell interests in UK oil licences and invest the proceeds in another North Sea asset. The capital gains tax move, for which the oil and gas industry has been calling, would allow companies to defer the tax charge on any capital gain on the transaction.

If approved, this would be the first time the measure has been available to companies in the North Sea since 1987, when a previous tax change removed the relief. The measure is to be put forward as a clause in the Finance Bill.

"The proposal is modest in tax terms, but very important as a signal that the government has understood and is responding to the industry's concerns," said Malcolm Brinded, managing director of Shell Expro, which operates in the North Sea on behalf of Royal Dutch Shell and Exxon Corp.

Managing director of port must deal with chartered vessels

Dear Mr. Editor,

Herewith please allow me again some place in your upcoming issue of your paper in respect of the present situation with an unqualified Managing Director heading the SMPA.

Please note this is not written to bring down the person appointed for the position, but to indicate both to the local politicians and population at large what it takes to run a port like what is presently being built in St. Maarten.

A little-known fact to the majority of the people of St. Maarten, is that most of the visiting freighters are vessels that are chartered by shipping companies that serve St. Maarten. The vessels are put up for charter by their owners for whatever reason they may have. However, a charter is a rather complicated issue, whereby the Charter Party is the main written document governing

the charter during the period of charter; rights and obligations for both parties are described in such a Charter Party.

To be able to ascertain the condition of the chartered vessel, which is of utmost importance financially for both parties, prior to and immediately after the end of the charter period the vessel is inspected by qualified marine surveyors. This is work that is regularly carried out here in St. Maarten prior to and after charter periods.

For the chartered vessel to be able to enter into a port and moor alongside a berth, the Charter Party states that they require both a safe berth and safe port. The work includes the measurement of the amount of fuel on board the vessel, as well as the physical condition of the vessel. This is best done while the vessel is alongside, and Port Authorities should

be aware of the purpose of the seeming delay in departure of the vessel.

Another very important aspect of the Charter Party, wherein the Port Authorities are intimately involved, is the clause of the Charter Party describing the safe port/safe berth system. A port or berth is to be considered safe when the vessel can enter and remain for the required period and not be subjected to dangers, unless these dangers are unpredictable or are abnormal.

What does this mean? Well a very long list comes to mind, but again, as stated in an earlier letter, the safety of a vessel can among other things be guaranteed by the proper qualifications of personnel working the port that is being visited by the vessel. Mainly indicating that the pilots are properly trained and certified, longshoremen properly trained and terminal management qualified

to run a terminal where cargo is properly handled during loading and discharge.

One of the problems that are presently appearing to become important in respect to a safe port or berth is the change in responsibility be-

tween the Master of the vessel and the pilot guiding the vessel to be port or berth. For instance, in The Netherlands it has become custom that the previous all around Master's responsibility is now being shared between the Master and Pi-

lot.

The outcome of Court Cases in The Netherlands as well as Belgium indicates clearly that both master and pilot are to be held responsible for their actions while the vessel is under pilotage. This of course not only calls for properly trained and certified pilots, but also for proper insurance coverage to be in place.

Another aspect that could have adverse financial consequences through claims or court cases started by either Owners or Charterers of a visiting vessel is ascertaining when a vessel has arrived, in respect to the Safe Port/Berth clauses.

The basic things for a Port Authority to ascertain and make known to the Shipping Community are the legal limits of the port; the administrative limits of the port; the fiscal limits of the port; and the geographical limits of the port.

The moment a chartered vessel is deemed to have arrived in a port, the lay days commence. This term describes the period that the vessel is allowed by the Owners to load and/or discharge her cargo. It is of course in the interest of the Charterer to keep these days to a minimum.

Therefore congestion in a port is not a good thing for a Chartered vessel, which again puts the responsibility on the shoulders of the Managing Director of the Ports Authority in view of a smooth running of his port, mainly based upon proper communications with the ship's agents using the port's facilities, in view of the expected times of arrival of vessel and the subsequent allowed berthing location.

Again it is observed that the Managing Director of a Port Authority needs to be a person who has extensive sea-going experience at MASTER level, as well as full knowledge of Insurance, Charter Parties and Maritime Law.

Capt. M.J. Oostervijk

Maladaptive Culture at its best

"Two cultures are at loggerheads in this case, lawyers Statius van Eps and De Cuba told Judge Bob Wit during the court battle between Schutte/Jaeger (Dutchmen) and Turkish businessman Sudi Özkan on Wednesday." The lawyers pointed out that the Dutchmen were operating within the context and principles of transparency and dealing through renowned banks and the Turk was operating contrary to the principles of transparency and legality.

I am trying very hard to understand where St. Maarten's culture came into question in this particular case. Nevertheless when emotions are running high and one feels defeated it's quite possible that attack will be launched against an innocent bystander, in this case St. Maarten's culture, in order not to defend the real issue.

The people of St. Maarten and all ethnic groupings residing on the island have been insulted by Mr. Hoeksma's statement: "We live on an island without culture. The only culture St. Maarten knows is a culture of chicken legs."

My interpretation of this unfortunate emotional outburst in court is, we are dealing with someone who's operating out of a culture that has become maladaptive.

Culture is portable, which has both advantages and disadvantages. When an immigrant group first arrives in a strange receiving society (St. Maarten), the traditions and customs in the group's culture provide a source of reassurance and comfort, even though they may not be completely adaptive to the group's new environment.

As time goes on, however, the traditions and customs have increasingly less pragmatic survival value. In other words, they become maladaptive. In effect, the idea to attack an innocent bystander, to run away from dealing with the truth of the matter, has been frozen for years and lives only in those who desire to operate from a fossilized/mal-

adaptive culture.

If eating chicken legs satisfies a vast amount of people's instinctive biological need of hunger in any particular society, does that make that society a chicken leg culture? What about eating spaghetti, French fries, Boerenkool, tacos, pizzas or for that matter eating with chopsticks — do these preferences determine one's culture?

Let us examine the misconceptions about culture. Knowledge and ideas are at the heart of culture, but if this is all culture consists of, and then it is very much in the mind. Social life is more than this, as it consists of behaviors or actions as well as ideas.

But when we watch people carrying out actions in repetitive, patterned ways or customs, we are not seeing bits of a group's culture. Instead we are seeing the embodiment of a cultural program. In short, behavior is not culture; rather, behavior contains culture.

In conclusion I would like to leave you with the following thoughts:

Should any St. Maarten be ashamed of chicken legs being part and parcel of his or her diet? Should any self-respecting individual feel ashamed of being part and parcel of a culture that orchestrated apartheid?

Should any St. Maarten be ashamed of coexisting peacefully together, for 350 years and possibly more, with various ethnic groups?

Should any self-respecting individual feel ashamed of practicing genocide against another race?

Neville C. York

Godfather author Puzo dies at 78

BAY SHORE, New York—Mario Puzo, author of the best-seller "The Godfather" which spawned the Mafia film trilogy, died on Friday of heart failure at his Long Island home, his agent said. He was 78.

Puzo, who won Oscars for screenplays for "The Godfather" and "The Godfather Part II," had just completed his latest organised crime book "Omeria," his agent, Neil Olson, said.

Born in the tough New York

film also won a best actor Oscar for Marlon Brando, whose portrayal of Don Corleone became one of his trademark roles.

It was a casting decision for which Puzo took partial credit. "That was my suggestion," he told Larry King on CNN in an interview to promote "The Last Don."

"I had read somewhere that, and it may be true, that Danny Thomas wanted to play it, and no reflection on Danny Thomas but I got so scared that I



Author Mario Puzo, shown with his Oscar at the 47th annual Academy Awards for his writing of "Godfather II," died Friday at the age of 78.

neighbourhood of Hell's Kitchen on Manhattan's West Side. Puzo wrote several other novels chronicling organised crime families, including "The Sicilian" (1984) and "The Last Don" (1996) which was made into a hit 1997 television miniseries. "He had a great life. It's the true American immigrant success story, and it's reflected in his books," Jon Karp, Puzo's editor at Random House, told Reuters.

"His books are going to last for all time," Karp added. "For as long as people want a good story, they're going to be rereading Mario Puzo."

But it was 1969's "The Godfather," which sold more than 21 million copies, with which Puzo would always be associated, although the author said he wished he had "written it better. I wrote below my gifts." Still, the saga of the Corleone family became one of the best-selling books of all time, and the films "The Godfather" and "The Godfather Part II" both won the best picture Academy Award. The first

wrote Brando a letter and he called me up and he told me that no studio would take him," he recalled. "I went back to Paramount and I said, 'Brando's the guy,' and they all said no. And then when (director) Francis (Ford Coppola) came on the film, he finessed them into accepting his decision."

Puzo also wrote the screenplay or story for films that ranged from hits to flops, including "Earthquake" (1974), "Superman" (1978), "The Cotton Club" (1984) and "Christopher Columbus: The Discovery" (1992).

But it was with "The Godfather" that he made his mark. Puzo explained the story's popularity this way: "It's wishful thinking. I think everybody would like to have somebody that they could go to for justice, without going through the law courts and the lawyers. 'The Godfather' was really, to me, a family novel, more than a crime novel," he added.



By Linda C. Black

Today's Birthday (July 3). Travel beckons, but first you need to take care of a few details closer to home, getting the job of your dreams, for example. That could happen as soon as August, most likely by December. A move may be required around late January, but it's a change for the better. By about February, you should have a pretty good idea of where you're going and where you'll be for a while. In March, travel looks good, most likely a vacation. A cruise would be perfect. A friend's experience leads you to a fabulous opportunity in May.

To get the advantage, check the day's rating: 10 is the easiest day, 0 the most challenging.

Aries (March 21-April 19) - Today is a 6 - Most people think you don't have any fears, but you know otherwise. The good news is that they'll be calmed by events that take place this weekend, especially if you set out to do that on purpose. Make sure you're in a supportive environment where things don't happen by chance, or at least not all the time.

Taurus (April 20-May 20) - Today is an 8 - It's fun to be with friends and family today and over the weekend. Why not have everybody over to your house? That looks like a great meeting place, and your hospitality is renowned for miles around. If you haven't already got something like that lined up, it certainly won't take much effort on your part to make it happen.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) - Today is a 6 - There's a grand trine in water signs going on now. You're an analytical air sign. The emotional water signs take longer to say what's on their minds, but that doesn't mean that they're not thinking. Today, watch out for people who are sitting quietly. They may be the ones with all the answers. Treat them with respect.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - Today is an 8 - You've spent a lot of time worrying about other people's problems lately, so why not celebrate? There's something you've always wanted to do, something that's a little bit far out. You may even worry that you can't do it all by yourself. That's OK. You've got a dear friend who would love to go with you.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) - Today is a 6 - There's something about your place that needs cleaning up, a big job you need to dig into. If you're having people over tomorrow, maybe it's the cleanup that's necessary before then. At any rate, action is required, and you shouldn't wait around much longer.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) - Today is a 7 - It's going to be a great weekend for being with family and friends. There's a grand trine in water signs right now, and that brings out everybody's nurturing, cuddly side. If you can get together with people this weekend, definitely do so, especially if you can do it near a large body of water.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) - Today is a 6 - You have an artistic streak if you're like most Libras, and there's nothing more wonderful than spending the entire day immersed in your painting, poetry or music. If you can manage to do that, you hereby have permission. The conditions in effect today could produce fabulous works of art.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) - Today is a 9 - Today, the grand trine in water signs will affect all the water signs. You'll be tuned in to each other, and you'll read each other's thoughts - well, some more than others. Follow up with verbal inquiry if you have the slightest doubt.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) - Today is a 5 - Today, you might want to stay close to home. Maybe you're not feeling well. Maybe someone's coming. Maybe somebody else wants you to. But if a summer cold is keeping you confined, don't despair. It'll start clearing up by the first of the week.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Today is an 8 - Have you ever noticed that sometimes your brain seems more open to new suggestions? Well, that's happening now. You might notice an idea that somebody suggested quite some time ago. Ask for suggestions again, and you may be startled to find the perfect answer.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - Today is a 6 - You've been helping others during the past week. Now, something helps you. If you've thought about finding a more satisfying job, this could be the weekend you get your big chance. Let people know what you want.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) - Today is a 6 - Today, you and someone you care about could have a marvelous conversation without saying much. It's a nonverbal communication, the kind you're best at. Be aware that other people may not understand what you're talking about. Don't let them stop you, but try to stay out of their way. It'll make everybody's life a lot easier.



Speak your
mind

By Queenie

SEND LETTERS TO P.O. BOX 828

Dear Queenie,

I'm seventeen years old and new on the island. Since I was small I've always admired men in uniform, so I was thrilled to hear that the aircraft carrier JFK would be in St. Maarten for a couple of days.

I put on my nicest clothes and went to town to have a look at the sailors, hoping to be able to get to know some of these young men in uniform.

However, to my dismay, the only uniforms I saw were those of the MP's. The rest were dressed in these long shorts and T-shirts and did not look a bit different from the teenagers I know here.

Queenie, I was terribly disappointed and ask myself why they cannot wear a uniform while they go ashore.—

Lover of Uniforms

Dear Lover of Uniforms,

Have you ever heard the saying "clothes make the man?" Well this is exactly what is happening in your case.

However, there can be very nice young men among the sailors visiting our island, even if they wear the same clothes the local youth do.

So, swallow your disappointment and try to get to know some of them, even if they don't look like you wish them to.

Please note:

Only notices of fundraising events, non-profit or educational organisations will be placed in the Events/Notices column.

Events

Saturday, July 3

GOLDEN OLDIES FUNDRAISING DANCE
presented by Our Creations, St. Maarten Arts & Crafts Foundation.
Dance competitions with prizes, door prize, music by DJ Elkon.

Place: Fun City Cave Disco, Illidge Road
Time: 10:00pm until

Entrance fee: NAF, 10 or US \$5

Tickets available at Back A Yard Indigenous Craft & Things, Loodgietersteeg; Belvedere Border Point; and from members.

Saturday, July 3

GRAND BBQ/BASKETBALL KNOCKOUT
organised by Saitis Muffler Shop Sonics. Music by DJ E.Z. Ric.
Registration US \$2 per person, 7 players per team.
Place: St. Peters basketball court
Time: 11:00am

Contact persons: Rene, tel. 92491; Sharma, tel. 90021; Mooks, on the court.

Saturday, July 3

GRAND BBQ
organised by Cay Bay Stars Netball Club to raise funds for the grand tournament on July 5.
Place: Caribe Home Center
Time: 12:00 noon
Price: NAF, 10 or US \$6

Saturday, July 3

and Sunday, July 4
STATIA BLAST
St. Maarten to Stata and back, presented by St. Maarten Yacht Club. Skippers briefing at the Yacht Club on Friday, July 2, at 7:00pm.

Starting point: Simpson Bay, St. Maarten

Starting time: 9:30am Saturday

Return point: Orange Bay, Statia

Return time: 10:00am Sunday

Prize giving at the Yacht Club in Simpson Bay on Sunday. For more information, call Andrew Rapley at tel. 52363 or 79484.

Sunday, July 4

SUMMER SUNSETS CONCERT
presented by Loterie Farms, sponsored by Antillean Liquors NV.
A string ensemble performance of Bartok, Haydn and Paganini.
Proceeds to Les Jardins de Loterie activities center.

Place: Loterie Farms, Route Pic Paradis, Rambaud.
Time: Gate opens 5:00pm; performance begins 6:00pm.
Admission: 100 Ffcs or US \$17, includes first glass of champagne.

Sunday, July 4

INDEPENDENCE DAY RUN AND WALK
organised by St. Maarten Road Runners. Run or walk around Philipsburg and Salt Pond (7k). Kids race around town (3½k). Please pre-register at Reggae Cafe, Thursday, July 1 until Saturday, July 3, 5:00pm. Strictly NO registration on the day. Raffle for all participants. Prizes in all categories.

Starting point: Front Street by Reggae Cafe on Cyrus Wathey Square.

Warm-up time and announcements: 6:45am

Starting time: 7:00am

Entry fee: US \$3; members and children under 16, free.

Breakfast price: \$5, buy ticket when you register.

For more information, call Mary at tel. 96951.

Sunday, July 4

BOAT CRUISE AND DANCE
on board the Explorer, organised by St. Maarten Volleyball Association. Music by DJ Ruby.
Place: Dock across from Kim Siss beach.
Time: 7:00-11:00pm; boarding from 6:00pm
Price: NAF, 45 or US \$25, includes one plate of food.
Tickets available from all association members.

Sunday, July 4

FAMILY FUN DAY
organised by the Justice Social & Heritage Foundation. Exciting games, domino tournament, grab bags, food and drink on sale.
Place: Kim Sha Beach
Time: 11:00am to 7:00pm

Monday, July 5 to

Saturday, July 10

THE FORGOTTEN GENERATION MASK

Exhibition by artist Reuben E. Lake of Curaçao.

Place: Philipsburg Jubilee Library

Tuesday, July 14

CINECLUB ST. MAARTEN SHOWING

"A LIFE LESS ORDINARY"

directed by Danny Boyle

Place: Golden Dragon Restaurant on Frontstreet opposite ABN/AMRO Bank.

Time: 8:00pm.

As Cineclub is a foundation, one must become a member for US \$10. Each movie costs \$5 (as a 5-time card for \$25).

Notices

VKS Bivouac

The Voluntary Corps St. Maarten VKS will be having a bivouac (temporary stay in the woods) from Friday, July 2, 5:00pm to Sunday, July 4, 2:00pm. During this weekend the Corps will conduct a series of trainings to prepare for its designated tasks. Residents in certain areas may experience some inconvenience during these trainings. The Commander and First Officer of the VKS ask for the public's understanding and cooperation.

Kingdom Games Meeting

All sports organizations, uniformed groups and brass bands are requested to attend an informative meeting at Raoul Illidge Sports Complex on Saturday, July 3, at 10:00am. Your presence is of utmost importance and will be highly appreciated.

USO Needs Volunteers

USO volunteers are needed to greet and pass out literature to the officers and crew of the USS John F. Kennedy on Saturday, July 3, from 8:00am to 4:00pm. Please come to the yellow tent across from Greenhouse Restaurant. For more information, contact Janet Lambert at 77616 or 00590 29 44 06.

Body Building/Fitness Championships

The St. Maarten Body Building & Fitness Association presents the following championships: July 2-4 — Eastern Caribbean championships, tickets now on sale for \$12. Tickets on sale at Fountain of Health, Van Dorp Edifield, Marci Mega Gym 2000, The Rom CD Store in Food Center, The Gym at Royal Palm, Living Health on the French side, Scorpio Resort Shop, and Game World at Food Center. September 24-26 — Central American & Caribbean championships, tickets will sell for \$20. For the July event 12 countries have been invited, and 30 for September.

GED Exam Schedule

University of St. Martin requests all persons who registered and paid for the GED Test in July to contact the University for the exam schedule. All GED exam candidates must bring an acceptable and valid form of ID to be admitted to the testing room, and are asked to arrive at least 30 minutes before the scheduled exam time for check-in. For further information, contact the Admissions Office at 25171 or 23156.

Educational TV Programme

Training and Resource Centre for Educators (SIFMA) presents a 15-minute TV programme entitled Educate With Dedication, to help guide Educators, parents and caregivers in the education of their children. The programme will focus on "Child Abuse." It was broadcast on St. Maarten Cable TV Channel 15 on Thursday, July 1, at 8:00pm and will be repeated on Monday, July 5, at 6:00pm.

Cay Hill Tigers Meeting

There will be a very important meeting of all members and players of the Cay Hills Tigers Baseball Team, in connection with the upcoming 1999 baseball competition, at Raoul Illidge Sports Complex on Monday, July 5, at 7:30pm. Please be there and on time.

Youth Council Association Elections

The St. Maarten Youth Council Association reminds all member organizations that the deadline for nominations to the Board of the Youth Council is Friday, July 9. General elections will be held during the general membership meeting at John Larmonie Center on Wednesday, July 21, at 5:30pm.

Vacation Bible School and Parents Workshop

Philipsburg Seventh Day Adventist Church announces its annual Vacation Bible School, July 5-16, 9:00am to 1:00pm. This year's theme is Friends Forever, focussing on the importance of being true friends with others and with God. Registration fee: US \$5 per child.

A parents' workshop on How to Detect Child Abuse will be held at the church on Monday, July 12, at 7:30pm. Admission is free.

On Q Summer Dance 1999

Consisting of Fit & Tone, Yoga, Afro Caribbean and Jazz/Video Commercial Jazz, July 5-30, Monday through Thursday, 5:30-9:00pm. Individual classes/packages: Children 10-14 years, US \$50-60; 15 years and older, \$60-65. Mixed classes/packages: Children 10-14 years, US \$80-90; 15 years and older, \$100. For more information and/or registration, please call 83531/83777 or 95787. Registration fee is \$5 (injury insurance and administration costs).

Choir, Cultural Manifestation,

Dance Practices for Kingdom Games

Choir practice for opening ceremony of Kingdom Games at Juliet's Gym in Betty's Estate (next to MAC School) every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, 10:00am to 12:00 noon, starting Monday, June 28.

Cultural Manifestation and Dance rehearsals at Caribe Lumber Ball Park every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, 10:00am to 12:00 noon.

Please drop off and pick up your children on time.

Carib Swimteam Competition Training

Carib Swimteam announces that for the summer vacation, competition training will take place at Raoul Illidge Sports Complex on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, 5:00-7:00pm, and at Le Galion Beach on Saturdays, 8:30-10:00am, for beginners, intermediate and advanced swimmers. Swimming lessons will be stopped during July and the first part of August, and will resume at the re-start of school.

Safe Haven Training Day

Safe Haven shelter for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault will hold a volunteer training on Saturday, July 10, 9:30am to 4:00pm. The shelter needs child care assistance in the children's department, crisis line workers, volunteers to pick up donations, volunteers to assist with the everyday running of the house and telephone assistance. Qualifications include thoughtful, patient and non-judgmental community care givers. If you can give a few hours per week or day, or even twice a month, please call Lorraine at 70321 to reserve your space at Safe Haven Training Day.

M&S Computer School

Classes starting

JULY 12

- ☐ Windows 98
- ☐ MS - EXCEL
- ☐ MS - Word
- ☐ MS - Power Point
- ☐ Lotus 1-2-3
- ☐ Publisher

Fee \$150
Bring ad & SAVE \$40

Classes:
Monday - Thursday

6:00 - 7:30 (2x weekly)

Mornings
9:00 am - 10:30 am

Call: 725-22 / ext 10004
to register



Bolivian Limberg Cutierrez (L) takes a shot past Peruvian Juan Reynoso during their second Copa America match, on Friday.



Copa America

Paraguay demolish Japan, Peru substitute scores and sent off

ASUNCION — Cop a America hosts Paraguay claimed their first win and goals of the tournament as they hammered Japan on Friday, while Peru qualified for the quarterfinals on a day substitute Israel Zunica is unlikely to forget.

Twenty-two-year-old Zunica came on in the 85th minute against Bolivia, scored the only goal of the game, missed a chance for another and was then sent off, all in five remarkable minutes.

The 1-0 win left Peru with a maximum six points in group A and into the last eight. Paraguay, who need a point against Peru on Monday to make certain of going through but should qualify anyway, are second

with four, Bolivia have one and Japan none.

However, with the top two teams in each of the three groups qualifying along with two third-placed teams, even Japan could still go through if they beat Bolivia by a big score on Monday.

Paraguay, held 0-0 by Bolivia on Tuesday, had waited 109 minutes for their first goal in the competition, and then went on to score three more in their 4-0 win over lacklustre Japan. Striker Miguel Benitez broke their duck with a powerful drive from outside the area and claimed a second midway through the second half, running onto an excellent pass by Hugo Ovalar and blasting the ball home.

Seventeen-year-old

Roque Santa Cruz scored the other two for Paraguay, both from headers. "We're conscious of our standard, the Paraguayans showed a much superior technique," said Japan coach Philippe Troussier.

The hosts were given a rousing send-off at the end by a 45,000 crowd at the Defenders of the Chaco stadium, a stark contrast to the jeers that greeted the end of their first game.

With a mean defence that has yet to concede a goal, Paraguay, who surprised the world by reaching the last 16 of the World Cup in France, could yet use home territory to help them win their third title.

Blom to compete on COTEC circuit

PHILIPSBURG—Tennis prodigy Alexander Blom is set to compete in a series of tennis tournaments that make up the COTEC Circuit Tour starting this week-end in Curaçao.

Blom's participation on the tour has been made possible thanks to the support of the Island Government and to the many players who have practised with him to aid his preparation.

Recognised by the International Tennis Federation, the tour kicks off with the Curaçao Junior Open on Monday. This event is being organised by the Netherlands Antilles Tennis Federation and has already attracted over 160 junior tennis players from all over the Central and Caribbean region. In Blom's draw alone, there are over 30 children in the under 12 year category.

From Curaçao Blom then travels to Aruba to compete in the 13th Torneo Internacional Hubenil di Tennis (T.I.H.T.A.) form the 12th-17th July. From Aruba, and depending on the results, Blom may travel with the Curaçao team to the Dominican Republic for the JTIC Championships which take place from the 19th-24th July and from July 25 to August 8. At this point it is not certain he will go on to the last part of the tour as his age category is not represented in these tournaments.

"For Blom these tournaments come as a reward for a year of hard training and the good results of the four tournaments he has participated in this year," noted Federation spokeswoman Sylvia Blom. "Although the competition will be fierce, he is in good physical and mental shape, particularly from having spent the last two weeks training with Tony Lake and Murwin Jong."

"He is probably the fittest he has ever been," she added. "But he will have to be willing to rally with his opponents and only go for the winners when there is a good chance of making them. If he can develop a good positive attitude on the court for these tournaments, he has a chance to do well."

According to coach Murwin Jong the thrust of the training leading up to

this tour has been to concentrate on the mental game, something which Blom has always needed to address. "The key is to remain focused throughout the match even when the opponent gets up to tricks like tying shoe laces, fiddling with their racket strings, taking their time etc.," explained Jong. "We are quite happy with his physical game, it is just the mental side we need to work on more and the general behaviour on the court."

For his part Blom said footwork was another important

area they had been working on.

The aim of the COTEC Tour is to increase the competitive opportunities for Junior players from less developed tennis nations, especially for the 14 and under age group. These events are also used as a means to identify talent and of selecting players for ITF Teams.

The number one COTEC player for 1998 is Jean Julien Rojer from Curaçao, who also played Davis Cup tennis for the Netherlands Antilles this year.



Alexander Blom (L) poses with his trainer Murwin Jong at the Raoul Illidge Sports Complex on Friday afternoon.

India-Pakistan one-day tournament is cancelled

NEW DELHI—The annual Sahara Cup one-day tournament between India and Pakistan in Toronto in September is to be scrapped because of the Kashmir conflict, the organisers announced on Friday.

"We are pained, enraged, disgusted and highly sensitive to the developments in Kargil," the organisers, the Sahara India Pariwar (family), said. "We can never be associated with anything that is against the interest of our country in any manner, in any way."

Friday's announcement came after a growing number of Indian players de-

manded that cricketing links with Pakistan be severed. Leading batsman Sachin Tendulkar said he agreed with former captain Kapil Dev's demand that India should not play cricket against Pakistan when their soldiers were locked in armed conflict.

"When two countries are fighting it's very hard to go out there and play on a cricket field," Star TV quoted Tendulkar as saying. "What Kapil Dev has said I am sure the board will also agree to it and most Indians, too."

The call for ending cricketing ties with Pakistan was first made on Tuesday by

Kapil Dev after a visit to military hospitals in the Kashmir region where India is fighting guerrillas.

On Wednesday Indian Cricket Board president Raj Singh Dungarpur was quoted by Indian news agencies as saying that India should sever cricketing ties with Pakistan. Dungarpur said the issue would be discussed at a meeting of the board's working committee in mid-July.

India says the infiltrators in the Kargil sector in northern Kashmir are mainly Pakistani soldiers. Islamabad says they are freedom fighters against Indian rule in Kashmir.

English clubs after Juninho

MADRID—Atletico Madrid said on Friday they had received offers from two English clubs for their Brazilian midfielder Juninho.

Atletico managing director Miguel Angel Gil, son of president Jesus Gil, said he was confident a deal could be worked out for Juninho, who said this week he was ready to leave the club.

"The two offers have been passed on to the player," Gilsaid. "I'm sure a deal can be done between Atletico, Juninho and one of the clubs before the end of July."

The two interested clubs are believed to be Middlesbrough, who sold the player to Atletico two years ago for 12.5 million pounds (\$19.71 million), and Aston Villa. Juninho came close to a move back to England in January this year but was persuaded to stay by then coach Arrigo Sacchi.

Atletico, who say they are prepared to spend as much as \$100 million on signings over the close season, would want around 2,500 million pesetas (\$15.38 million) for Juninho, who has been disappointing in his two-year stay in Spain.

Unwelcome Saiz and Virenque join Tour

LE PUY DU FOU, France—French rider Richard Virenque and ONCE team director Manolo Saiz joined the Tour de France's caravan on Friday much to the disappointment of race organisers forced to accept them back against their will.

Saiz attended a meeting of team directors while Virenque went to the compulsory medical testing. Two weeks ago, the organisers said the two were "not welcome on the Tour" but both were received by a huge group of journalists and cameramen.

Virenque, currently charged in the Festina doping scandal, left his team's van without a word and returned from the medical control 10 minutes later, sunglasses on his nose and a grin on his face, only to jump into a team car to return to his hotel.

At the very moment when the former King of the Mountains left the Puy du Fou, followed by a mob of cameras, Tour director Jean-Marie Leblanc was making harsh comments on the Polti team leader. "If Virenque was the Tour, it would be a very serious setback for our race. It would not be the best thing for cycling in the hard times is going through," he said.

Virenque and Saiz were both reinstated by the International Cycling Union (UCI) on Tuesday, overruling the earlier ban by Tour organisers. Leblanc, who admitted to joggling with UCI president Hein Verbruggen on Friday morning to discuss problems, was more understanding for Saiz than he was for Virenque. "We had talks and decided to settle the row and to live peacefully together for the three weeks of the Tour,"

Leblanc said.

He had first decided not to invite Saiz to the race, which starts today from the medieval theme park of Le Puy du Fou, because the ONCE team director had insulted the Tour. Saiz indeed made bitter comments about the French race when his team left the Tour last year after a police raid on their hotel.

"I'm not Robert Redford. I'm fatter and uglier," the outspoken Saiz joked on leaving the team directors meeting to face the media. "For maybe different reasons I have exactly the same goals as Tour organisers. I want this Tour to be a clean and successful race."

"We (ONCE) just hope to have a good race and a good Tour. The riders may feel a little pressure after last year, but on their bikes they forget about the pressure," he said.

Saiz for some time main-

tained some suspense about the participation in the race of his French leader Laurent Jalabert, who had publicly said he would not come but who was kept on the entry list until the last minute. "I was forced to give Tour organisers a list of 14 names and Jalabert was on it because I had no other choice," he said.

The ONCE team leader on the Tour will be Spain's Abraham Olano, but the former world champion and Vuelta winner is not in top shape after a fall in the spring.

Leblanc said he would for the first time lecture the riders before the start to warn them of the consequences if they were found positive for doping. He warned that more random blood tests would be made, especially on teams which have been linked to doping scandals in recent months.



French rider Ricard Virenque (foreground) climbs up a hill followed by his Polti teammates during a training session at Puy du Fou, western France on Friday.

Maddux, Braves trounce Mets 16-0 in Shea Stadium debacle

NEW YORK—Greg Maddux showed how everyone wants to pitch. Matt Franco showed how they don't want to.

For five innings, it looked as if Maddux could get his first no-hitter. Instead, the game turned into a historic laughter as Franco, normally an infielder or outfielder, made the first pitching appearance of his career.

"It was a breather. Almost like an off-day," Maddux said after allowing just two hits in six shutout innings of the Atlanta Braves' 16-0 rout of the New York Mets on Friday night.

Chipper Jones hit a pair of two-run homers, Eddie Perez and Gerald Williams hit three-run drives and Ryan Klecko added a solo shot for the Braves, who hit like it was batting practice and sent the Mets to their worst shutout loss ever. The Braves matched their biggest shutout win this century, 16-0 over Brooklyn on May 7, 1918, and against Pittsburgh on Sept. 12, 1952.

It got so bad for the Mets that closer John Franco couldn't get out of the ninth inning, issuing consecutive two-out walks while down 13-0. At that point, the left-hander felt a strained tendon in the middle finger of his pitching hand, starter Rick Reed entered to play right field and Matt Franco moved from third base to the mound. Williams then homered, and

Otis Nixon tripled before Franco struck out Andrew Jones. "If I ever get to pitch again, it's probably a not a good thing," said Matt Franco, who forgot to ask for the ball that he fanned Jones with.

In Chicago, Pedro Martinez is halfway to 30 wins, a mark that hasn't been reached in more than three decades. "I'm not even thinking about that," Martinez said after pitching eight strong innings for his major league-leading 15th victory in Boston's 6-1 victory over the Chicago White Sox. "I'll give it a shot. Those things can happen just like the homers last year with McGwire and Sosa. But I can't say I'll be the one who will do it. I'll give it a try, but it's hard to get."

Martinez (15-2) gave up seven hits and one run—

Magglio Ordonez's 18th of the season. He struck out five and walked none, dropping his league-best ERA to 2.02.

Martinez tied Roger Clemens' 1986 record for most wins by a Red Sox pitcher before the All-Star break. The last 30-game winner in the majors was Denny McClain, who won 31 for Detroit in 1968.

American League

Cleveland	- Kansas	7-9
Toronto	- Tampa	7-8
Yankees	- Baltimore	2-1
Minnesota	- Detroit	11-4
Texas	- Seattle	7-6
Oakland	- Anaheim	6-10

National League

Phillies	- Cubs	14-1
Pittsburgh	- Milwaukee	2-5
Colorado	- San Diego	3-15
Los Angeles	- Giants	3-6



St. Louis Cardinal Mark McGwire hits his 24th home run of the season off Arizona Diamondback starting pitcher Brian Anderson in the first inning at Busch Stadium.

McGwire's two homers can't lift St. Louis past Arizona

ST. LOUIS—Mark McGwire's power wasn't enough to beat an Arizona team that didn't get a single extra-base hit.

The Diamondbacks used 15 singles, four run-scoring groundouts and a sacrifice fly to beat the St. Louis Cardinals 9-5 Friday night despite a two-homer, five-RBI game by McGwire. "We did the little things we had to do," said Luis Gonzalez, who drove in three runs for Arizona.

The Diamondbacks had

scored a total of one run in their previous two games and had lost five of six to fall a game behind first-place San Francisco in the NL West. But they bounced back after getting swept at home by Cincinnati in a three-game series.

"I don't think this team was ever fazed," Gonzalez said. "Regardless of what people write and say around the city, we still have confidence in this locker room. We never lost confidence."

McGwire hit his 24th and

25th home runs for his 56th career multihomer game, moving ahead of Jimmie Foxx for fourth on the career list. He declined to talk about the homers but did comment on teammate Joe Mauer, who set a Cardinals rookie record by extending his hitting streak to 23 games.

"Chicks can start digging singles instead of long balls," McGwire said, referring to a line in a popular TV commercial.

UEFA: United decision sets negative trend

GENEVA—European soccer's governing body accused FIFA on Friday of forcing Manchester United to choose between defending the English F.A. Cup and taking part in the new world club competition.

UEFA, who have opposed the FIFA-backed club competition and said it would only add to a congested soccer calendar, pointed to Manchester United's current dilemma as proof of their concerns. United announced on Thursday they would not defend the F.A. Cup but would travel instead to Brazil next January for the first world club championship.

UEFA said Manchester United's withdrawal from the 127-year-old competition set a negative trend. "The consequences of organising the FIFA club championship are now visible," UEFA general secretary Gerhard Aigner said at the end of two days of executive meetings. "In particular, the fact Manchester United will not be participating in the F.A. Cup in England."

"The committee regrets this negative trend that leads to situations where the Cup holder of this oldest cup competition is not in the competition," it added.



Cincinnati Reds' second baseman Pokey Reese applies the tag for the out on Houston Astros Richard Hidalgo on a stolen base attempt during the fifth inning at Cinergy Field in Cincinnati, Ohio on Friday.

Homer-happy Bagwell, Houston end Cincinnati winning streak

CINCINNATI—Sure it was special. Don't let the Houston Astros' straight faces fool you.

There was no more celebration than usual after their 7-5 victory Friday night ended the Cincinnati Reds' 10-game winning streak. Salsa music played in the clubhouse—customary when Jose Lima pitches—but no one danced. They kept their satisfaction to themselves after beating the team that swept a four-game series in the Astrodome last week-end.

"We cooled them off a little bit," interim manager Matt Galante said. "They beat us pretty good (in Houston) and it wasn't even close, really. I think there's a little excitement in the clubhouse. They know this team beat them four straight and they wanted to do something about it."

The top of the Astros' order did most of the damage. The top four hitters piled up 10 of Houston's 15 hits, with the most important of them coming from cleanup hitter Carl Everett.

Everett had four hits, including an inside-the-park homer and a two-run double in the eighth that pulled the Astros into a first-place tie with Cincinnati in the NL Central. Jeff Bagwell added his 26th homer.

"We just wanted to win," Bagwell said. "It's not like we were trying to set a tone. We've won the division the last two years. This is a veteran team that's gone through some bad streaks before."

No team's been through a good streak quite like Cincinnati's. The Reds won 10 in a row against first-place teams, a first in the modern era. The sweep in Houston last weekend rekindled interest in the Reds, who sold 11,000 tickets Friday and drew 35,591 for the game and a fireworks show afterwards.

"It was disappointing," said Reds starter Steve Parrish, who struggled through five innings. "Hopefully they were here for the game and not just for the fireworks. It's disappointing to give up nine hits and five runs before 40,000 people."

The Reds made two comebacks but never led. The Astros went ahead to stay in the eighth and held on for only their second victory in eight games against Cincinnati. "You can't win 'em all," said Sean Casey, who homered on his 25th birthday. "We took four from them down there and they were hungry."

Criville takes provisional pole

DONINGTON PARK, England—Championship leader Alex Criville, who fell and dislocated a hip in the previous race in Assen, took provisional pole on Friday for Sunday's British 500cc Grand Prix.

The Spaniard clocked one minute 33.091 seconds on his Honda. Kenny Roberts was second on a Suzuki in 1:33.119 and Yamaha's Norick Abe was third fastest at 1:33.347.

"Having the provisional pole position is very good news after the fall in Assen," said Criville who has won four successive races this season. "I did not expect it. I am not entirely comfortable on the bike. I felt tense on some bends, particularly the right handers."

Criville said he had expected his title rival Roberts, winner of the first two races of the season, to go faster than him and was not making pole position his priority. "Tomorrow we will work on the tyres. I do not like this track very much and I am not 100 percent. So the fact that everything has gone so well so far is excellent."

Roberts was confident he

could go faster in Saturday's final practice session.

Honda's Spanish rider Sete Gibernau completed the front row of the provisional grid. Italian Max Biaggi was one 10th fastest on his Yamaha while Spaniard Carlos Checa, who had a horrific crash here last year in qualifying, was 12th.

Bould leaves Arsenal's "Famous Five"

LONDON—Veteran Arsenal defender Steve Bould is joining fellow premier league club Sunderland for an undisclosed fee, the London side said on Friday.

Bould's departure will break up the "Famous Five"—Bould, Tony Adams, Lee Dixon, Nigel Winterburn and Martin Keown—the select band from whom Arsenal's back four have been drawn for a number of years. Bould's move follows Arsenal's signing earlier this week of defender Silvinho from Brazilian club Corinthians.

Milan sign Shevchenko for record \$25 million

KIEV—Italian champions AC Milan have signed Ukraine striker Andriy Shevchenko from Dynamo Kiev on a \$25-million, five-year contract, a Kiev spokesman said on Friday.

"The deal was done yesterday and from that day on Andriy is a property of AC Milan," spokesman Alexei Semenenko said. The deal between the two clubs was being put together for several months, with Milan ultimately paying a record-breaking sum for any player from the former Soviet Union.



Shevchenko said: "I know I am in the strongest team in the world and that in Italy it is difficult to win the championship for two years in a row, but I hope that, thanks to my arrival, Milan can keep up with this year's performance."

Milan won the Serie A league title last season. "We strongly believe in Shevchenko, as shown by the fact we signed him up with a five-year contract, the maximum duration allowed in Italy," Milan vice-president Adriano Galliani told a news conference following the deal on Thursday. "We hope he will stay with us for his entire career."

Sunday Oliseh joins Juventus from Ajax

AMSTERDAM—Nigerian international Sunday Oliseh has joined Juventus from Ajax, the Dutch club said on Friday.

The 25-year-old defender and midfielder, who played for Nigeria in last year's World Cup, has signed a five-year contract with Juventus, who beat competition from fellow Italian club AS Roma.

Oliseh played 76 times and scored nine goals for Ajax, the club he joined two seasons ago. He previously played for FC Cologne, Liege and Reggiana. At Juventus, he will join former Ajax team mate Edwin van der Sar and ex-Ajax midfielder Edgar Davids.

Ajax also announced on Friday they had signed Nigerian under-21 striker Pius Ikedia on a five-year



Oliseh

contract from ASEC Mimosas in the Ivory Coast. Ikedia, who will turn 19 next week, was a member of the Nigerian side which reached the quarter-finals of the recent World Youth Cup.

No financial details of Ikedia's contract or Oliseh's transfer were disclosed.

49ers sign Stenstrom

SANTA CLARA, California—Quarterback Steve Stenstrom, who played for Bill Walsh at Stanford, will be reunited with his former coach after signing with the National Football League club on Friday. Stenstrom signed a two-year deal at undisclosed terms.

Walsh, who was hired as 49ers' general manager last January, was seeking a quar-

terback to compete for the backup job behind Steve Young. Ty Detmer, last year's backup, was traded to Cleveland.

Stenstrom was coached by Walsh at Stanford from 1992 to 1994 and became the school's all-time passing leader with 10,531 yards. Originally a fourth-round pick of Kansas City in 1995, Stenstrom missed most of

training camp due to a contract dispute and was claimed off waivers by the Chicago Bears.

Stenstrom started six games last year when Erik Kramer was sidelined and completed 112-of-196 passes for 1,252 yards and four touchdowns with six interceptions.



Michael Johnson (C) of the United States, compatriot Jerome Young (L) and Britain's Mark Richardson (R) in action during the men's 400m race at the Athletissima athletics meeting in Lausanne Friday.

Johnson back on track as Greene is derailed

LAUSANNE, Switzerland—Michael Johnson looked invincible as ever while the world's fastest man Maurice Greene proved to be beatable, finishing second in the 100 metres at the Lausanne Grand Prix athletics meeting on Friday.

Johnson, showing no sign of the thigh injury that prevented him from racing Greene in the U.S. championships at the weekend, got his European season off to a blistering start by surging to victory in the 400 metres.

The double Olympic champion, with his sights set on Butch Reynolds's 400m record, looked every bit a capable of claiming the long-

standing mark this northern summer. He stormed home unchallenged in a season's best of 43.92 ahead of compatriot Jerome Young, who was a distant second in 44.34.

Trinidad's Ato Boldon ruined Greene's debut race in Europe as the newly-crowned world record holder when he shot to victory in the 100 metres, pushing his training partner into second. On an ideal night for sprinting, Boldon clocked a sizzling 9.86 seconds for the fourth time in his career, rocketing across the line ahead of Greene, who was timed at 9.93.

Boldon, second to Greene in Athens three weeks ago

when the American ran 9.79 to demolish the world mark of 9.84 held by Canadian Donovan Bailey, powered away from his friend in the final 10 metres. It was Greene's first loss since breaking the record.

"Everyone else has run four (9.86) but I've run it one time," boasted Boldon, the 200m world champion. "I promised my mom I wouldn't run 9.86 again but I did. But I'm very happy, there's nothing to be ashamed of when you hit your personal best for the second time in three weeks."

Boldon's victory helped ease some of the sting of being dis-

qualified after winning the 200m in Oslo on Wednesday, costing him a chance at the Golden League's \$1 million jackpot. "I've been very emotional since I was disqualified in Oslo," said Boldon. "I needed this race to feel better."

Marion Jones, who will be chasing four gold medals at next month's world championships in Seville, sent out a stern warning to her challengers, cruising to a comfortable victory in the 100m in a season's best of 10.80. Sevatheda Fynes was a well-beaten second in 10.91, as the American remained unbeaten in the event since returning to competitive sprinting in 1997.

Qualifier Stevenson makes tennis history

LONDON—American Alexandra Stevenson became the first qualifier in Wimbledon history to reach the women's singles semifinals on Friday when she completed a 6-3 1-6 6-3 victory over Jelena Dokic.

"John McEnroe was the first man to reach the semifinals as a qualifier, and now I am the first woman. I think it is awesome that it's two Americans," she giggled after her victory. "I've been waiting for this my whole life and it is just fantastic."

Stevenson meets third seed Lindsay Davenport in today's semifinal. McEnroe, who reached the men's semifinals in 1977 and won three singles titles at Wimbledon in the 1980s, was back on court on Friday at the age of 40, winning mixed doubles alongside Steffi Graf.

The clash of the two qualifiers had been held over since Thursday when rain cut the match short with Stevenson leading 6-3 1-5, but the breaks did not affect the American at all. "I just waited and snacked, waited and snacked, everything was fine," she said.

Dokic said she had been put off her stride by the break. "I was on a roll in that second set," the 18-year-old said.

Play resumed on Friday having switched from court two to court one and Dokic, first round conqueror of top seed Martina Hingis, served out to push the match into a deciding set. Stevenson, making her Grand Slam debut, immediately took the upper hand and broke the 16-year-old Australian for 2-0. But she was broken back the very next game.



The American managed another break in a nervy third game and the 18-year-old—playing her first tournament as a professional—held on for an historic victory after 74 minutes of play. "I was really excited that we were moved to court one, my first real show court—although I liked court two. I just went for it. You have to if you want to win. I have always hit the ball really hard. Over the years I have got more control and that's good."

Malaga move for Musampa

MALAGA, Spain—Malaga have signed Dutch under-21 midfielder Kiki Musampa from Gironella Bordeaux on a four-year contract.

Musampa, a former Ajax player, said he was looking forward to the challenge of Spanish football. "I've seen the Spanish league on TV and I've always liked the way the game is played here," he told reporters. "From a professional point of view this is a great opportunity for me."

Musampa is the first new signing for Malaga, who won the second division championship last season to return to the top flight for the first time since 1990.

Marseille to replace Blanc with Argentine

MARSEILLE, France—Independiente's teenage central defender Gabriel Milito, a member of Argentina's 1997 World Youth championship-winning team, is set to sign for Olympique Marseille next week, the French club said on Friday.

The 19-year-old Milito, who captained Argentina in last month's Toulon under-20 tournament in southern France, is due in Marseille on Tuesday. Milito, whose transfer is estimated at between 25 and 30 million francs (\$4.25 million), will be presented as the replacement for France World Cup veteran Laurent Blanc, sold to Inter Milan earlier this week.



Britain's Tim Henman plays a return to France's Cedric Pioline during their quarter-final match at the Wimbledon Tennis Championships Friday.

Sampras tops dream men's semifinals

LONDON—Defending champion Pete Sampras profited from the retirement of Mark Philippoussis with a bad knee injury and Andre Agassi crushed Gustavo Kuerten to set up two "dream" men's semifinals at Wimbledon on Friday.

Four of the biggest crowd-pullers in tennis will battle it out today—top seed Sampras plays local hero Tim Henman, the sixth-seeded Briton he beat in the last four last year, and Agassi meets second seed Pat Rafter, the U.S. Open champion.

The winner of the Rafter/Agassi match will take over from Sampras as world number one, regardless of whether Sampras wins his sixth Wimbledon title in seven years. Rafter has never been top of the rankings while

Agassi, who won the French Open last month, was last number one in February 1996. Last year he made the biggest leap in ATP history by climbing from 122 to number six.

Rafter has just one goal in mind. "The final at Wimbledon definitely overshadows the number one in my books," he said. The Australian reached his first Wimbledon semifinal by squeezing past Todd Martin, the American eighth seed, 6-3 6-7 6-7 6-6. Henman was too good for Cedric Pioline, beating the Frenchman 6-4 6-4 6-6 3.

American Alexandra Stevenson became the first woman qualifier to reach the singles semifinals when she beat Jelena Dokic of Australia, the qualifier who had downed top

seed Martina Hingis in the first round. Stevenson, 18, courted to the crowd and signed autographs after her 6-3 1-6 6-3 win while 16-year-old Dokic stalked off.

Stevenson meets third seed Lindsay Davenport of the U.S. on Saturday while Mirjana Lucic, the 17-year-old Croatian who beat last year's losing finalist Nathalie Tauziat 4-6 6-4 7-5 on Friday, will play second seed Steffi Graf.

The women's final will be played on Sunday, along with the men's, after rain this week meant the quarter-finals could not be finished by end of play on Thursday. Davenport will take over from Hingis at the top of the rankings if she reaches the final.

SPORTS

Get ready for Monica Brant

MAHO — American fitness icon Monica Brant and Bajan bodybuilder Bernard Sealey are the two celebrity guest posters performing to-night during the 4th Eastern Caribbean Bodybuilding Championships at the Maho Conference Center.

Hosted for the first time in St. Maarten, up to 12 Caribbean countries will be competing for honours at this prestigious competition and muscles are not expected to be in short supply on stage. Judges as usual will have the unenviable task of critiquing every little imperfection on what most people not familiar with the business assume to be perfectly sculpted bodies. But of course the Judges know what to look for.

Brant, the 1998 Fitness Olympia Champion, and Sealey will be providing light relief during the evening as they show off their own bodies in a contrast of routines sure to delight the audience. Indeed at 28, Brant epitomises the looks, the figure, the lifestyle that many women aspire to but will probably never achieve.

But she would like you to get one thing straight. She is not a bodybuilder. Fitness and bodybuilding are completely different. At a press gathering on Friday, Brant explained more about fitness and her own career.

"In fitness competition you

have a physique round but without poses," she informs. "Judges look for symmetry and muscle toneness. They don't want you to be too big or muscular but rather coming in lean. Then in the routine round there are no mandatory poses but you have to incorporate flexibility moves, strength moves. They want to see energy, usually a 2 minute routine with gymnastics and dance that raises the heart rate to 180. It is mostly anaerobic as opposed to aerobic."

Since turning professional

in 1995, Brant has competed in eight fitness contests, including four Fitness Olympias (equivalent to Men's Bodybuilding Olympia), the highlight of which was her Fitness Olympia win in 1998. "That has definitely been the high point of my career," she says proudly. In addition, she has appeared on television and film, graced the covers of countless fit-

ness magazines and calendars, done commercials for British Airways, Fiesta Texas, Gunn Chevrolet and her own Monica Brant Sweat Mix, as well as promotional and public relations work. She is so busy that most of the year she lives out of a suitcase.

Based in Marina del Rey, California, Brant got into the fitness business in 1991 when it was still fairly new, but prior to that was always competing in something, usually in track and field or horseback riding. "Today it is very competitive amongst the girls in fitness. About 90% of the girls competing are either gymnasts or dancers from the time they were kids, whereas I came into fitness by a different route. So yes, it is much harder now and I have had to learn a lot."

At this level of fitness and physique one wonders what if anything is missing and to what does she attribute her success. "Physique wise I am blessed with good genetics. I do eat well and I do train hard. Otherwise I would get fat like everybody else. But a lot of it is to do with personality and the way I handle myself. I try to be respectful of everybody, and talk to people the way I would like to be talked to. It all plays a part."

If there was anything lacking about her physique it would be her 5'5 height. "I wish I could be taller, but obviously I can't do anything about that. Otherwise I'm happy with my genetics. I can be leaner but that depends on where I

am and what I'm eating."

Brant is yet to decide whether she will compete again this year. If she does it will be in October.

After all, she has reached a pinnacle in fitness and confesses there is not another level to reach competitively speaking.

Otherwise she will continue with her work for Universal Nutrition with whom she has a contract for another two years. "It is hard to stay at the top when you're at the top. I have the

never did any smoking or drinking," remembers Bernard. "So I learned a healthy lifestyle."

Along these lines steroids were never a temptation to Bernard. He made his bodybuilding debut at the Junior Mr. Barbados contest in 1972. He went on to capture the title the following year, while his brother Roger won the Senior Mr. Barbados competition! Since then he has won a string of Caribbean and American titles in the mid eighties and early nineties.

No stranger to St. Maarten, Sealey is probably the most qualified man to talk about the bodybuilding scene in the Caribbean as he prepares to organise the 10th Bernard Sealey Classic in October. Asked who he would put his money

on at the EC Championships tonight, Sealey said: "I know all the bodybuilders from way back of course, but not all of the newer ones. I know middleweight Julian Felix from St. Lucia is very good. Then there is Michael Bryant from Barbados, who took third in the Caribbean Championships last year and he is looking very good. Puerto Rico have a good team too. A lot of the guys have improved tremendously. It just depends how hungry they are to win."

Just how hungry are the ten St. Maarten contestants to win and can Kenroy Hensley repeat his win of last month? All will be revealed tonight.

The fans are reminded that the semifinals (eliminations) can be seen this morning at 10.00am in Maho and Monica Brant will be holding a seminar at 3.00pm. The finals begin at 8.00pm.



Monica Brant (L) poses with Bernard Sealey (C) and her mother outside Mark's Place on Friday.